

# THE INDEPENDENT

# BUYTEINDEPENDENTIONY

# Impeachment is put on hold as US prepares to strike Saddam

BY ANDREW MARSHALL AND MARY DEJEVSKY AND DAVID USBORNE in New York

BRITAIN AND the United States were preparing to strike Iraq last night as the long-running confrontation over United Nations weapons inspectors threatened to boil over into full-scale war.

The prospect of war in the Gulf prompted congressional leaders to postpone "tentatively" today's vote on the impeachment of President Bill Clinton. Mr Clinton moved swiftly from discussion of his impending impeachment to a meeting with his security advisors at the White House to decide on military action

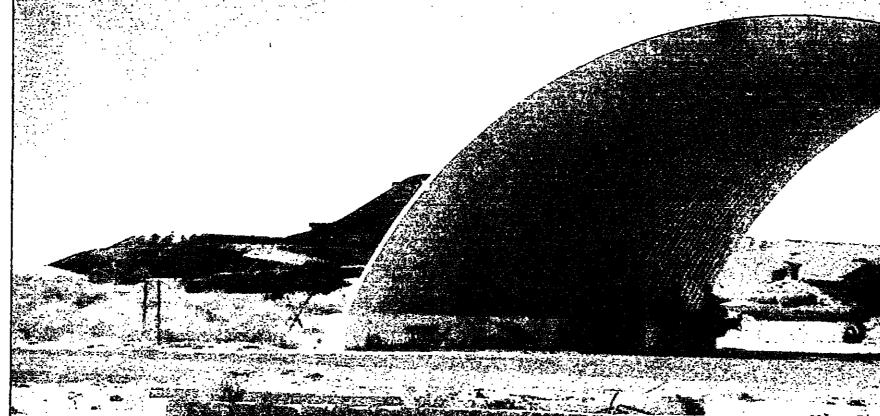
The US said Iraq's refusal to Illow the inspectors to search out what they believe are Iraq's weapons of mass destruction had precipitated the crisis.

There is no end in sight for this pattern of obfuscation, obstruction or outright violation," said the US State Department spokesman, James Rubin.

'We can find no grounds for optimism that the Iraqi leadership, if left to its own devices. will suddenly change course and opt for cooperation in the ew year, or, if it remains in ower in the new millennium."

The latest threats of military chief United Nations weapons inspector, Richard Butler. He told the UN in a document released late on Tuesday night that despite promises that it would resume full cooperation with the UN, Iraq had failed

When the US drew back from military action in mid-Nober it threatened to strike without warning if Iraq broke its promises. After receiving the latest report, the US immediatchy advised the UN that it should withdraw the weapons inspectors - a sign that military action might be imminent - and at dawn yesterday they began pulling out to Bahrain.



Two Royal Air Force Tornado GR1 aircraft leaving the Ali al Salim airbase in Kuwait for a mission over southern

President Clinton flew back late on Tuesday from the Middle East, where he had tried, fruitlessly, to persuade Israel to maintain compliance with the Wye peace accords. He arrived to find domestic support for his cause in the impeachment debate ebbing away, as one by one, moderate Republicans announced their intention to vote

to impeach him. Debate of the four articles of impeachment which was due to begin this morning may now begin at a later date, perhaps next week, but time is running out for this session of Congress as Christmas approaches.

The Administration denied

strenuously that the clash had any connection with the President's problems. The timing had been set by Mr Butler's report, and by Iraq itself, spokesmen said. Indeed, they raised the prospect that Saddam Hussein may well have timed the confrontation to coincide with Mr Clinton's period of maxi-

The last threatened clash coincided with the congressional elections, which Mr Clinton's Democrats had been expected to lose, but their B-52 bombers on the British isstrong showing gave him added momentum.

The Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which begins on siles in the region.

■ Clinton's reprieve

■ Saddam in a hole

■ Leading article

Sunday, may also influence the timing of military action. The US has over 200 aircraft

in the Gulf, a fleet of ships capable of launching Tomahawk cruise missiles and 15 land of Diego Garcia armed with cruise missiles. The US Navy alone has 300 such mispage 3

The US said in November that it planned a large-scale campaign of attacks, which were called off with just minutes to spare. They were aimed at sites where Iraq is suspected of building or storing weapons of mass destruction, but also at the political infrastructure of the

Review, page 3

Diplomatic support for the attacks was weak in November, and yesterday a number of nations made it clear they wanted some other outcome than military action.

A meeting of the United Nations Security Council was under way, where other powers were expected to mount a content and the question it strong effort to persuade America against air strikes.

The Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, said he had contacted the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and the French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine, in an attempt to head off military action.

Prime Minister agreed the next time co-operation is withdrawn, he will be hit." Downing Street confirmed last night that

#### worsen the situation in the statement. It is unlikely, how-Gulf and the Middle East," he said. "Russia doesn't want that. Russia will do everything

possible to avoid this happen-

France said yesterday that more time was needed. "Concerning Mr Butler's report, its raises must be given in-depth study by the Security Council." the French Foreign Ministry, at

ever, that America will long be delayed by UN opposition. Neither Britain nor America believe they need additional legal authority to mount at-

"Given Iraq's manifest failure to cooperate over the last month, if we should choose to use force we would have the necessary legal authority," Tony Blair told the House of the Quai D'Orsay, said in a Commons yesterday.

## Attacks legal and justified, says Blair

mons yesterday that air strikes on Iraq were justified and legal because of Saddam Hussein's "delays, deceits and obstą: les" in complying with United Nations Security Council

There was a mood of grim resignation at Westminster that the air strikes which had been recalled in mid-flight in November would now go ahead after the damning report of Chief Political Correspondent

weapons inspectors in Iraq.

"Nobody who reads that report can seriously doubt the conclusion that Unscom [the special weapons commission is unable to carry out its role properly," Mr Blair said.
"This is not obstruction for

the sake of it. It is a plan of deceit to prevent these weapons of mass destruction Richard Butler, head of the UN being located and destroyed.

to develop these weapons of mass destruction, poses a threat not just to his neighbourhood but to the whole world."

The Conservative leader. support of the Opposition. Most Labour MPs appeared ready to back the action, although leftwingers called for a mass vigil against the bombing outside Downing Street.

The Labour MP George Galloway accused President Bill

"Saddam Hussein, if allowed Clinton of making "a last ditch attempt to avoid humiliating impeachment" by ordering the bombing. Comparing this to Wag the Dog, the US film in which a president starts a war William Hague, pledged the to protect himself, Mr Galloway said: "Britain is playing the role of the tail to a very ill-bred dog. Clinton - already con-demned as a liar, cheat and deceiver - has no compunction about saving his own skin with

the blood of innocent men.

women and children in Iraq."

action in a 10-minute telephone call between London and Washington at midday yesterday. It followed a 15-minute call from the President to brief Mr Blair on Tuesday night on the Butler report as Mr Clinton flew back to Washington from the Middle

The Prime Minister told the Commons on 16 November that there would be "no warnings, no wrangling, no negotiation

President Clinton and the and no last-minute letters. The this time there would be no

official warning to Iraq. The determination within the Government to end the catand-mouse game with President Saddam was matched by a widespread feeling at Westminster that unless that threat was carried out this time, the credibility of the British-US

## "People know a lot about the Dome," said a spokesman. "But A perfect combination of smoothness and strength, with a subtle "OLD blend of flavours. SPECKLED ? HEN" A most

## Shakespeare and a sandwich define Millennium

HERE IS something guaranteed By 1. S WE LIAMS to keep the family arguing during the season of goodwill, just in case Scrabble and the choice of viewing for Christmas Day are not enough: name the most significant people and events of the past 1,000 years.

As if it had not courted enough controversy to last the next 1,000 years, the company responsible for the Millennium

Dome had a stab at its choice yesterday when it unveiled a 22m a vertising campaign. A television commercial, which begins on Christmas Eve, runs through what it considers the great achievements of humanity during the past millennium. Top of the list are Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, the

and the compassion of Mother

The New Millennium Experience Company's top 12 also

moment in the 1780s when the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end Earl of Sandwich grasped the of apartheid and Sir Walter limitless possibilities of bread, Raleigh's patronage of the potato. Any debate about whether

people need to see advertising to know that a new millennium includes: the Easter Island is on the way will almost cerstatues, Westminster Abbey, tainly be overshadowed by William Shakespeare, Florence arguments over the commer-Nightingale, the invention of cial's omissions. They include television, the lunar landing, the the discovery of penicillin, the

Revolution, the Reformation. the Renaissance, and Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. The company said it drew up the final list after consumer research was carried out.

steam engine, the Industrial

But by concentrating on the significance of the new millennium, the commercial ducks any of the controversy surrounding the Dome.

Voices of angels

this is refocusing on the whole millennium experience. which people have not yet managed to The advertising is stage one

of a £16m, year-long campaign that will culminate in a pitch for people to buy tickets for the Millennium Dome when they go on sale next autumn.

#### INSIDE THIS SECTION

Spin-doctor concern Lord Callaghan urges Tony Blair to rein in Labour's spin doctors

🏟 fishing cuts ritain will agree to slash its fishing quota Home P10

Israel poised for poli Benjamin Netanyahu freezes Wye pact, then opts for early election Foreign P15

Chill wind in China Dissidents go on trial over subversion charges Foreign P17

New life in Britain Peter Mandelson has unveiled his blueprint for revitalising business Business P18

England's one-day axe Michael Atherton and Angus Fraser dropped Sport P25

NSIDE THE REVIEW Yasmin Alibhai-Brown Ann Treneman What do you give the Daisy is a head-turner. King of Minimalism for She is now 16, and Christmas? obviously pregnant Front page Comment P5

Miles Kington Please, do you know who is Tony Blair? Comment P2

Dilemmas Virginia Ironside on sons and flat-buyers

Paper promises said, contain outright lies Fast Track P17 Features P8

What are the choristers of King's College School really like? **Education P12** A quarter of all CVs, it is

Brewed by Morland

of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.

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# Last ditch reprieve for Clinton...

political survival has defied every forecast, seemed on the verge of his most spectacular escape yet after congressional leaders agreed "tentatively" to postpone today's debate on impeachment, citing the looming conflict with Baghdad.

With a US military strike on Iraq predicted within hours. Mr Clinton looked set to be rescued by the two men who have proved more than once his twin allies in adversity - the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, and the Unscom chairman, Richard Butler.

The word from Congress that today's debate could be postponed left Mr Clinton suspended awkwardly between world leadership and national ignominy. But possibly, also, off the book.

The gathering momentum for impeachment looked set to be halted, and was unlikely to regain its full strength.

Almost 11 months to the day since the tawdry tale of the President and the White House trainee blazed into America's President, as one by one, the somortal threat to his presidency. Bill Clinton had returned from the Middle East to find himself fighting once again for his political survival.

The personal and political crisis that had faded, flickered and flared by turns was back with a vengeance. Vice-President Al Gore, who

cancelled a campaign trip to New Hampshire to remain by the beleaguered President's side in Washington, made a new plea with Congress - his second in three days - to find a compromise and spare the country the "painful ordeal" of

"There's still time," he told reporters, "for Democrats and

in Washington

Republicans to come together and embrace a bipartisan compromise to seek a resolution that is both quick and fair and try to turn away from the bitter partisanship that we have seen so far," Mr Gore said, adding: "That is what the American people want."

There was already evidence, however, that Mr Gore's words were not quite as accurate as they would have been even 48 hours before.

The polls say the American people want the President to survive, but - in a crucial turn - an ABC-USA Today opinion poll on Tuesday showed 58 per cent of them believing that resignation was preferable to a Senate trial.

In other words, the voters would defer to their elected representatives: the "people's President" was losing his popular touch.

Yesterday, every hour brought worse news for the political consciousness as a called "moderate" Republicans, on whose support the White House had pinned its last hopes, all fell dutifully into line behind impeachment.

Bob Ney, from the Ohio valley, the "swing" region that twists to and fro in the political wind; then Bill Billbray from San Diego, who, like so many, cited his children, his morals, his country and its standards in defence of his decision.

Christopher Shays from Connecticut was scheduled to meet Mr Clinton in a last desperate attempt by both sides to prevent what looked to be the unpreventable.

Wild rumours filled the air in Washington of a dramatic appearance by the President in



President Bill Clinton: Every hour brought worse news for him yesterday as 'moderate' Republicans fell into line behind impeachment

the Capitol to plead his own case before the full House, of a the nation of a tearful intervention by Mrs Hillary Clinton to beg the nation's forgiveness on behalf of her errant husband.

LIGHTING UP

HIGH TIDES

3.58pm to 8.42am 3.54pm to 8.11am 4.02pm to 8.44am 3.52pm to 8.02am 3.50pm to 8.21am 3.38pm to 8.27am

The President's most heart did not seem to be in it. hilt in the judiciary committee, telegenic lawyer, Gregory new presidential broadcast to Craig, made a final round of talkshows to argue the President's legal case, which boils down to: "he almost lied under oath, but didn't quite" – but his

EXTREMES

Sunalest: Lulworth, Darset 5.5 hrs

Even Clinton stalwarts, including Congressman Barney Frank, who is the brother of White House communications director. Ann Lewis, and had defended the President to the

conceded, with a hangdog expression that betrayed his mood, that a Senate trial was almost inevitable.

In the mood of Mr Frank and the White House it was possi-

EUROPE NOON TODAY

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

ble to read a sense of bewilderment that the President should suddenly be so imperilled. Was Mr Clinton not the master of the political escape, had he not already survived the Monica Lewinsky scandal and had not the people of America renewed his mandate at the ballot box in giving Democratic Party candidates a surprise victory, on aggregate, in last month's mid-term Congressional elections?

To be sure, the vicissitudes of the past year defy belief. In January political Washington was confidently forecasting Mr Clinton's imminent demise. His shifty and uncertain demeanour bespoke his guilt. Yet a combination of popular

support and personal bravado - his famous ability to "compartmentalise" between his private and political life - saved him, along with the generous and, as it turned out, misguided) support of his wife, a his defence, the one thing none flourishing domestic economy and a succession of interna- the hapless Robert Bennett tional crises - Iraq, Kosovo, the Middle East where the US President could show himself as a leader.

The images of that phase were his adamant finger-wagging televised denial - "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms Lewinsky", his "business-as-usual" State of the Union address the very next day, and his loyal wife's angry condemnation of the "vast right-wing conspiracy" that she blamed for her husband's difficulties.

Buoyed by his survival, and the confident words of White House aides - lied to. it transpires, by the President - the White House and Democrats embraced the line of Mr Clinton's innocence in the Monica Lewinsky affair. And the Lewinsky affair was

a "set-up". the question of lying under oath, obstructing the course of justice. abusing power etc - the charges that are now enshrined in formal articles of impeachment were without substance. That judgement changed

summarily on 17 August, when Mr Clinton testified to the grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky case, and appeared that evening on television to ica to save him

been a "not appropriate, intimate relationship" with Ms Lewinsky, for which he was truly sorry. To universal amazement that admission - by turns abject and bolshie - had not the slightest effect on Mr. Clinton's public support.

His political support in Washington, however, was convulsed. Republicans were apoplectic in accusing him of lying. Some Democrats called for his resignation. White House staff appeared to be in defection mode. The watchword was "disappointment". A slew of apologies, each more solemn than the last, however, saved the President yet again.

The appearance of the report by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr on 9 September while it substantiated each and every salacious rumour was successfully parried by the White House as the work of an anti-Clinton crusader.

And when, two weeks later. the White House quaked in anticipation of the televised showing of Mr Clinton's 17 August testimony, public opinion turned the other way. People were disgusted with the details, unhappy with the treatment of the President, and unfazed by his legalistic arguments.

According to the prevailing view, Mr Starr was prying into areas that were none of his business. The Congress voted along party lines to impeach, on the basis of the Starr report. But the public tuned out. And on 3 November, the first opportunity they had had to register their views confidentially. at the ballot box, the voters rescued Bill Clinton yet again.

Harry C.

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The chief victim of those elections was the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, who was blamed for the undistinguished performance of his troops. He resigned, and the White House toasted the perversity of fate. But the Republicans persisted in the constitutional process that was their right. And it may have been the dogged, painstaking, formalistic hearings of an undistinguished judiciary committee, which supposedly no one was watching, that turned the tide again. The subject at issue was suddenly not sex but lying and the law, and Mr Clin-

ton started to look vulnerable. For however many lawyers the White House fielded to defend the President and whatever arguments deployed in of them was able to do (since during Mr Clinton's testimony in the Paula Jones case back in January), was to deny the events chronicled in Kenneth

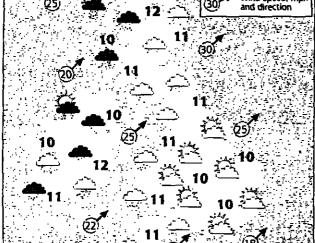
Starr's report. And the President's lawyers gave ground - he had been evasive, incomplete, misleading, even maddening', said Gregory Craig, but had not committed perjury.

"Reasonable people" said chief White House counsel, Charles Ruff, might conclude that he had lied, but had not perjured himself.

Opinion polls say that American people still like their President and hope he weathers the latest storm.

Now that their attention has been drawn, day after day, in quiet and lawyerly fashion, to the higher issues - equality before the law and the obligation of the country's chief law officer to uphold that law however, they have started to ask whether an America that indulges Bill Clinton is an America they want for their future. They have also noticed that the President has no real defence. And if their representatives decide that he should stand trial, or even depart, they will not sacrifice their idea of Amer-

# **Noon today**



#### **FORECAST**

General situation Northern freland and western Scotland will start wet and windy with some heavy roin and hill fog: strong south to south-west winds might touch gale force. Rain will spread across the rest of Scotland and into Wales and the north and west of England during the afternoon, meanwhile, brighter but showery weather will move into Northern Ireland and western S land. The south and south-east of England will stay dry with sunshine but cit will increase later, threatening rain after dark.

Cent S, E & SE England, London, E Anglia, Channel Is: A locally grey start but sunshine will break through from time to time. Staying dry until after dark. Moderate south to south-west winds. May temp 9-11C [48-52F]. SW England, S Wales: Cloudy and misty at first in many areas. Brightening for a while but becoming overcast again with drizale or rain later. Fresh southerly winds. May temp 10-12C (50-54F)

N Wales, Cent N & NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Mild mostly cloudy with rain this afternoon, heavier later. Fresh south to wirds, locally strong. Max temp 10-12C (50-54F). **Midiands, NE England:** Bright for a while but any scloud increases, bringing rain this afternoon. Freshen Midlands, the sugarmous and this afternoon, the same this afternoon, the same to the same to the same this afternoon, the same to the same

N Ireland, SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Windy with heavy roin and hill fog Brighter this afterneon with scattered showers. Strong, locally gale force, southerly winds, veering fresh south-westerly, Max temp 10-13C [50-55F] SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Mild but windy. Rain by afternoon, turning heavier later Strong south to south-west winds, locally gale force in exposed areas. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

#### OUTLOOK

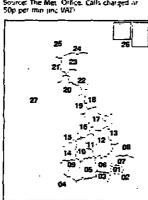
More rain on Finday, accompanied by gusty winds. Brighter, show will follow into the west. The north will turn colder on Saturday wintry over the hills; the south will have a spell of steader rain.

Haddon. Construction, lane closures contration. Until 31st December stringhamshire: M40 between junctions M25) 8 3 (Westmite East). Three narlanes both ways and a 50 mph speed in torco. Until 1st January 1999 of: M5 J18-19 Major Roadworks on mouth Endoe 1 lenh 3 et h.

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SUN & MOON

WEATHERLINE



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COME RAIN OR SHINE...

THE US FARMLANDS of the mid-west, dubbed the "bread basket", could be due a cataclysmic drought in two decades, fossil experts have warned.

Palaeontologists studying tree rings and other archaeological remains have discovered evidence of weather patterns which suggest that a drought to dwarf even the disaster of the 1930s Dust Bowl will hit North America by

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

US FORCES IN GULF

More than 80 combat aircraft on station near Iraq including

A-10 Thunderbolts and

F-17 Stealth bombers i

B-1 bombers in Bahrain 15 B-52 bombers in

24,100 troops

22 ships including:

6 Destroyers, USS's Arleigh Burke, Paul Hamiton, Hopper, Hayler, Fletcher and cape St George

USS Newport News, attack submarine

USS Carr, a guided missile frigate

USS Dextrous, mine

USS Essex, Dulith and

300 Tomahawk cruise

USS Enterprise aircraft

TURKEY

SYRIA

SAUDI

TARGET IRAO: WHERE THE ALLIES PLAN TO STRIKE

ARMENIA

# There is no way out for Saddam

375,000 men serve in the

15.000 Presidential Guard

7-8 divisions of Republicar

1.000 armoured fighting

20,000 Fedayeen

2,000 artillery pieces

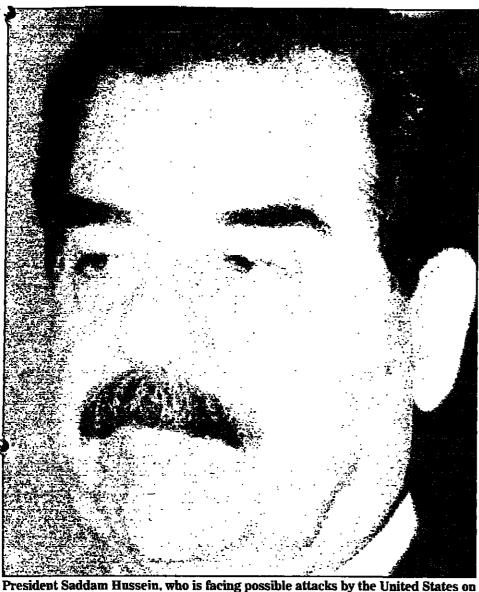
BRITISH FORCES IN GULF

18 Tornado GR1s

4 Jaguar fighters 3 VC10 tankers

HMS BOXER - frigate

Ballistic missile sites 🗶 Air defence Chemical facilities ; Command centres Palaces suspected of Republican Guard



presidential sites which have been suspected of harbouring weapons facilities

Britain have a huge force already in the Gulf, ready to strike, from the last time that wilitary action looked likely. hough on a much smaller scale than that assembled for the 1991 Gulf War, it is more than adequate for a sustained aerial attack.

The aim would be to hit facilities where Iraq is thought to have the capability to manufacture chemical or biological weapons. But the attacks would also target the "political and military" pillars of the regime, with a view to destabilising it.

The US has more than 200

THE UNITED States and By ANDREW MARSHALL

US armada is the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise and its carrier battle group. Alongside it is the 31st marine expeditionary unit, with the USS Belleau Wood. As well as fighter-bombers and fighters, the carrier-based force includes electronic warfare aircraft. The aircraft carrier Carl Vinson is due in the Gulf in the next few days to increase the force. Gulf are also capable of firing There are additional aircraft cruise missiles. based in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

The early stages of the attack are sea-based. The core of the earlier this year on Sudan and

Afghanistan, cruise missiles alone will be used; but the previous plan had been to mount a more sustained attack, with manned aircraft also utilised. The cruise missiles deployed in the Gulf are, in their own right, a formidable force. There are 15 B-52 bombers on the British island of Diego Garcia - more than usual because the aircraft were being rotated for Christmas - and eight of the cruisers and destroyers in the

Britain has a much smaller force in the Gulf, which is principally important to the US for Fraft and 22 warships in the would use cruise missiles. It political reasons; it shows that the About half of the aircraft may be that, as with the attacks Washington is not alone. There Washington is not alone. There are 12 Tornado fighter-

do reconnaissance aircraft in Saudi Arabia and refuelling aircraft in Bahrain. The Type 22 frigate is on patrol in the Gulf. Britain is in the process of acquiring its own cruise missiles, to be launched from submarines, but does not vet have that capability. The targets are relatively

clear. The sites where Iraq is suspected to be developing chemical and biological weapons are well mapped out. but the problem is that no one really knows exactly what is going on at these sites, precisely because the United Nations weapons inspectors

cannot get into them. But beyond this, the US is

bombers in Kuwait, six Torna-likely to attack targets with more political importance. It may well attack the special presidential sites which have been suspected of harbouring weapons facilities, but where President Saddam Hussein and his leadership may also be present

> And it will hit the facilities of the Special Republican Guard. the unit that guards senior political figures, their homes, motorcades and families. The headquarters of their command, air defence, intelligence and ammunition depots are all in Baghdad, but there are detachments spread across the country, including in the Tikrit region, the home of President



A convoy taking UN weapons inspectors in Iraq to the airport yesterday

4 reasons to buy a PC from Dell this Christmas. Printers, software, service, delivery.

IRAN

## How Iraq yet again broke its promises to the UN

By DAVID USBORNE in New York

**BRITAIN AND the United States** find themselves once more on a war footing in the Gulf because of a 10-page report that landed on the desk of Kofi Annan. Secretary-General of the United Nations, late on

It made grim reading: one month after Iraq had averted military calamity by promising to resume full co-operation with weapons inspectors, the evidence indicated that it was failing to do so.

This was the conclusion of the report compiled by Richard Butler, chairman of Unscom, the special UN commission charged with rooting out all weapons of mass destruction

from Iraq.
In it, Mr Butler notes that contrary to Iraq's pledge on 14 November, its government has continued to impede his inspectors. Indeed, he said, in the past few weeks. Unscom had made "no progress" on uncovering proscribed arms.

The report appeared yes-usuay to have taken all sides by surprise. At the behest of Russia, an emergency, closeddoor meeting of the Security Council was convened to con-

sider what should come next. It was a meeting, however, against a background of growing resignation that a bombing campaign may be inevitable this time, whatever diplomatic contortions are attempted in New York.

The release of Mr Butler's report was, ostensibly, the moment when council members were due to consider their own promise to begin a comprehensive review of the crippling UN sanctions that have been weighing on Iraq since its invasion of Knwait in 1990. In a letter to the council, Mr Annan cc still be exercised. But in til. circumstances, a review

an Australian diplomat with an ment or accounting for its pro-

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE BUTLER REPORT

The Butler report says Iraq is not cooperating with his inspectors and that "no progress" has been possible on hunting down its weapons of mass destruction. These were the principal obstacles:

Access – Unscom inspectors were refused free access to the Baath Party HQ in Baghdad. Unscom had "solid evidence" that it contained important evidence of weapons concealment.

Cleansing and photography – Some sites had been cleaned by Iraq before inspectors arrived to see them, making inspections a waste of time. Iraq placed new restrictions on photographs that inspectors can take of important materials.

Friday prayers – Iraq announced that inspectors could not visit one site because it was on a Friday, the Islamic sabbath.

Withholding documents – Of multiple documents demanded by Unscom, Iraq produced just one during the past four weeks. It also turned down an Unscom request to remove missile engine components for inspection.

more than a reluctant pass to Iraq for the good behaviour test that it has effectively been taking for the past four weeks.

However, nobody, not even the British or the Americans, appeared to have been ready for the single-mindedness of his conclusions. As one council member put it: "I did not expect the degree of non-cooperation which there is in the report. Butler's conclusions are much

more clear-cut." Mr Butler wrote: "In spite of the opportunity presented by the circumstances of the last suggested that that option month, including the prospect of a comprehensive review, Iraq's conduct ensured that no seems unlikely to happen soon. progress was able to be made Few had expected Mr Butler, in either the fields of disarma-

often harsh tongue, to give hibited weapons programmes." And he went on: "In the light of this experience, that is the absence of full cooperation by Iraq, it must regrettably be recorded again that the commission is not able to conduct the substantive disarmament

work mandated to it by the Se-

curity Council." Suspicions were inevitably voiced that President Clinton will be tempted, in "wag-thedog" fashion, into military action to deflect attention from his impeachment predicament. But in reality, the tenor and substance of Mr Butler's report allows Washington and London

little space for manoeuvre. On 14 November, when an attack was cancelled at the last minute, Mr Clinton, in particu-

Iraq failed to give full and unfettered access to the inspectors in the coming weeks, military strikes would follow.

The impediments thrown up by Iraq are described in Mr Butler's report in clear detail. First, there is the issue of the serial documents that Unscom has been seeking for months, which, according to Mr Butler and his experts, could shed important light on what armaments iraq may have held in the past and indeed, may still have.

Most important among these is a document found this summer by inspectors at the headquarters of the Iraqi Air Force, which was seized by Iraqi officials and withheld from Unscom. The document, Mr Butler wrote, is "directly related to verification of the material balance of Irag's chemical weapons munitions. Iraq refused to return the sealed envelope with the document".

Of a number of other documents sought by Unscom since mid-November, he added, only

one has been handed over. Inspectors, meanwhile, have also found once more that their access to certain sites under suspicion was far from unfettered. Probably the most serious incident came two weeks ago, when inspectors were turned away from the Baghdad headquarters of Saddam Hussein's ruling Baath party. The building. Mr Butler reported, was "designated for inspection on the basis of solid evidence of the presence

of proscribed materials". But Mr Butler catalogued other difficulties experienced by his inspectors. Among them was the discovery that some sites they visited had visibly been cleared of all possibly incriminating evidence before the inspectors gained access.

One such site was the former headquarters of the Special Security Organisation in Baghdad. Mr Butler complained of "clear evidence that Iraq had taken advance actions at certain locations planned for inspection in order to defeat the lar, left little room for doubt: if purposes of inspection".

#### Ho Ho Ho, there's no need to guess who's playing Santa this year because we're offering loads of family PC packages including software, digital cameras and printers all with guaranteed delivery before Christmas'! Not only that, but we're including three years service as standard, (year1 on-site, years 2 and 3 collect and return, covering all transport, parts and labour). With deals like these, it's no wonder we're the world's largest direct PC beutiniu.|| manufacturer. So phone us today and make this the best Christmas ever.

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Firefighters clearing up the debris from a 10-vehicle pile-up, in which three people were killed and six others injured yesterday. Several of the vehicles caught fire in the 7am accident on the M20 in Kent. The road between junctions nine and 10 was closed for most of the day KNP

# Hogg plan to contain BSE \* was vetoed

FORMER AGRICULTURE min- By CHARLES ARTHUR ister Douglas Hogg claimed jected his efforts to tighten government policy to prevent BSE being passed to humans, even after a link between the diseases emerged.

Giving evidence to the BSE inquiry in London, Mr Hogg, who was in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) from July 1995 until the 1997 election, described a crisis Cabinet meeting chaired by John Major at No 10 on 19 March 1996, the day before the link between "mad cow disease" and "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (nv-CJD) was publicly announced.

During the meeting, Mr Hogg said, he suggested a ban on the sale of any meat or food products made from cattle over two-and-a-half years old. This should have raised safety levels because animals with the disease take up to five years to show symptoms, which is when their tissues are most infective. But he said his Cabinet col-

leagues "did not endorse my

Technology Editor



Hogg: Concerns 'ignored' by Major's cabinet

recommendations" and the measures announced the next day "fell short of what I regarded as desirable". The Government announced reon meat from animals more than 30 months old.

But Mr Hogg added: "Most of my recommendations subsequently became, and remain, the central plank of government policy." In April 1996, the Government revised its stance and banned any use of meat or other products from cattle more than 30 months old.

At the time of the BSE crisis, Mr Hogg was frequently portrayed as ineffectual and Maff as pandering to farmers'

championed the interests of the consumer and the farming industry, but having been overruled when he wanted to take firmer measures earlier.

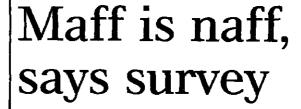
Mr Hogg also revealed that soon after he took office he had realised that the Government's measures to prevent potentially BSE-infected material passing into human food were not being observed by slaughterhouses. After visiting abattoirs and talking they could not guarantee that

slaughtermen - who told him infected material would not get into the food chain - Mr Hogg took "the firm view that I could not rest the public's health on controls within the abattoirs". At the time he took charge

of Maff, he believed that the risk of humans catching BSE was similar to the risks involved in "flying or catching a train". His written evidence to the inquiry suggests he held tightly to that view almost up to March 1996.

In it, he described a meeting in November 1995 with Sir Kenneth Calman, the then Chief Medical Officer, who had expressed worty over slaughterhouses' continuing flouting of the rules. This was allied to the surprising emergence of "sporadic" CJD (unconnected to

At that meeting Sir Kenneth said he was "less confident interests. Yesterday he sought than a year ago that things were to present himself as having heading in the right direction.



THE MINISTRY of Agriculture. BY PAUL WAUGH Fisheries and Food is seen as AND ROB EVANS the "Reliant Robin" of White hall, according to research farming advi-commissioned by the department itself.

that most resembled the crisis- most resembled "a clappedhit ministry, focus groups opted for the three-wheeled vehicle beloved of stand-up comics and Del Boy Trotter.

An organisation that presided over the BSE scandal was never going to be regarded as a Rolls-Royce or a Lamborghini, but civil servants had hoped that it could at least make a comfortable family saloon. The survey, carried out by

MORI and obtained by The Independent, shows that the ministry is perceived as uncommunicative, backwardlooking, slow and bureaucratic.

Just 20 per cent of farmers described the ministry as "efficient", while just 6 per cent of the wider public thought that it was "competent".

But the severest criticism came from academics, food industry chiefs and other key "opinion leaders", including a

farming adviser to the BBC's

When asked to pick a car, any When asked to name a car car, the group said that Maff out Morris Minor and a Robin Reliant".

> The study quotes one member of the group as saying: "Scientists acting as politicians and politicians running around as scientists has been disastrous".

Another said: "I am so angry with MAFF because of the B crisis where there was a possibility of a half a million dead bodies. I went to bed for a few nights just trying to think through the sheer irresponsibility of putting the public in this situation.

The study is one of a series ordered by ministers soon after the general election to assess the performance and reputation of individual departments.

The research, which was fiercely opposed by civil servants, was based on focus group techniques used successfully be Labour in opposition.

## IN BRIEF

#### Man held over serial sex attacks POLICE HUNTING a serial sex attacker believed to be

responsible for 12 assaults and rapes arrested a man at Heathrow airport early yesterday. The man, in his early 30s, was being held in central London but had yet to be charged last night. Police refused to comment on whether he had been trying to board a plane. The arrest came after a huge response to police appeals for information.

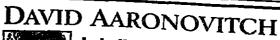
Court to rule on tobacco ad ban FOUR UK tobacco firms yesterday won the right to challenge the European parliament's decision to ban

tobacco advertising and sponsorship. Mr Justice Turner, sitting in the High Court, said there were "clear advantages" in obtaining clarification from the European Court of Justice before the directive is implemented.

£6m for 'botched' hospital project BRITAIN'S BEST KNOWN teaching hospital has accepted an out-of-court settlement from developers of a reported 16m. Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust had sued P&O Developments Ltd and Austen Associates for botched work and a delays in the building of Thomas Guy House. The project overran its budget by 80 per cent.

Cleese wins prize for irritation AN ADVERT for Sainsbury's featuring the comic John Clee

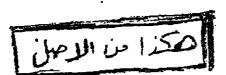
has been voted the most irritating television commercial of 1998. A Clover ad, featuring Rod Hull and Emu, and Sky Digital's televisions about to jump off a cliff, came joint runners-up in the survey by Marketing magazine.





I shall miss Graham Kelly. His miserable features made great copy IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 3





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# Callaghan Condemns PM's spin doctors

LORD CALLAGHAN of Cardiff, the former prime minister, yesterday urged Tony Blair to rein in the Government's army of "spin doctors" and warned him not to distance Labour from its trade union foundations.

Asked about the high-profile political aides who seek to secure favourable media coverage for their ministers, Lord Callaghan said: "I don't like it. I dislike being spun. I would certainly not carry a pager myself – but then I am so old-fashioned about these things."

Lord Callaghan admitted that, during his spell as prime minister from 1976-79, the government did try to influence the press and broadcasters. "Of course, there was a certain amount of spinning, but we were much more amateur about it. We regarded it as a bit

of a laugh, frankly."

He joined the criticism that
Parliament has been downgraded since Labour regained
power last year Mr Blair has reduced the two weekly sessions
of Prime Minister's Questions
to one and rarely takes part in

Commons votes.

"I fear the House of Commons is less important today than it was. I very much regret it." he told BBC Radio 4. But Lord Callaghan appeared to lefend Mr Blair against allegations that he is a "control freak." He said that was "a reflection of the extreme way the party, went in the Eighties."

The former premier said he regarded the Blair administration as a true successor to his own government, citing the actions of Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health

By ANDREW GRICE Political Editor

and David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, as being "in the true traditions of the Labour Party."

Lord Callaghan supported Mr Blair's goal of forging a national consensus. for the Government's policies. But he said it should be done "whilst adhering to our history - by that I mean that trade unions should continue to play a prominent role in the Labour Party."

Lord Callaghan suggested that New Labour's spell in the political centre ground might not last, and that traditional leftright hostilities might resume.

He said British politics was "a kind of pendulum" in which parties went from one extreme to another and then rested in the middle. Although there was now "a period of calm", argument would return.

"What Tony Blair has to achieve – and I expect he will – is to ensure that despite the argument, the country gets a clear view of what is going on."

Mr Blair seems to have taken heed of one piece of Lord Callaghan's advice. Yesterday he attended his third meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party in recent weeks and stressed the need for dialogue between ministers, MPs and the party. Until recently Mr Blair had attended the weekly meeting only occasionally.

MPs were promised greater input into the Government's policy-making process yesterday, by David Miliband, head of the Downing Street Policy Unit, who spoke at the meeting.



Houdini with Conan Doyle: Their friendship developed into a longstanding feud



Houdini, who published articles exposing psychics, taking part in a seance

# Conan Doyle's very suspicious seance

IT WAS the strange and momentous night when Arthur

met Harry.

The Arthur was the creator of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Harry was the legendary escapologist, Harry Houdini. They had been brought together by their shared interest in spiritualism. They met on this occasion in a hotel room in Atlantic City.

The curtains were drawn and the ouija board was produced. Conan Doyle's wife, Jean, allegedly a medium, attempted to summon the spirit of Houdini's mother. As the escapologist and writer looked on she said she had succeeded and conveyed to Houdini seasonal Christmas greetings from his departed mum.

The two men rejoiced at the success of the seance. It was only later that Houdini, no doubt inspired by the spirit of Sherlock Holmes, smelled a rat.

As his mother was Jewish, her first words to her son from the other side were unlikely to be Merry Christmas. And as she spoke only Yiddish it was even more unlikely that she and Lady Conan Doyle would be able to have much of a conversation.

After that evening in 1922 the relationship between writer and

By DAVID LISTER Arts News Editor

escapologist became increasingly strained, developing into a feud. The feud and Conan Doyle's staunch defence of spiritualism is evident in letters by the author to be auctioned today.

The two men fell out for good when Houdini's repeated failure to reach his mother on the other side led him publicly to denounce mediums and seances as frauds. Conan Doyle remained a firm believer in spiritualism.

Four letters written by Conan Doyle to the American journalist and the psychic investigator. James M Bird, are expected to fetch between £3,000 and £3,500 when they go under the hammer at Southeby's.

Conan Doyle was an admirer of Bird's investigations, even remarking in one letter with a surprisingly modern colloquialism "Wow! What a life!"

The letters encourage Bird in his "quest upon the greatest of all questions" and congratulate him on his "stand against Houdini", adding that Bird, after his investigations, "cannot have the slightest doubt of the preternatural origin of these phenomena. Nothing is SUPERnatural."

He also encouraged Bird in his "quest upon this greatest of all questions - so great that the most powerful argument against it is that its general acceptance would dwarf the affairs of life".

Also for sale at the auction is a pamphlet, A Word Of Warning, which Conan Doyle wrote in 1928 saying that the world faced an impending crisis to which he had been alerted through his spirit guide.

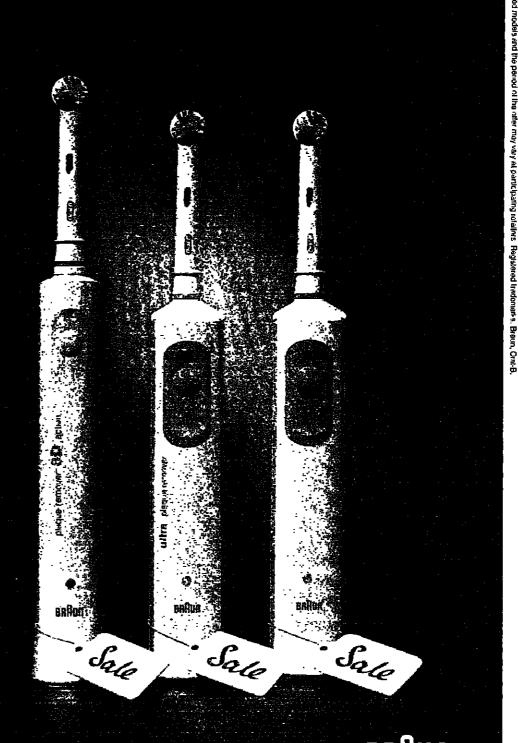
Meanwhile, a frustrated Houdini had published a series of articles exposing mediums and psychics as fakes.

Taking issue with one of these, which refers to a photograph of a levitating Chicago medium that Houdini said was false, Conan Doyle wrote: "He told me that he could see the foot of Mrs Tomson in the photo taken with him in Chicago. I should think that the real argument is that where a medium is faking she would take particular notice that her foot was not visible."

Included in the sale is an LP brought out in 1970 of *The Final Houdini Seance*. That seance, which took place on 31 October 1936, involved Houdini's widow attempting to contact her late husband. She failed.

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# Human clone claim challenged

By STEVE CONNOR Science Editor

A TEAM of scientists from South Korea claimed yesterday to have cloned the world's first human embryo, which it destroyed within days.

Cloning experts in Britain, however, cast doubt on the claims, saying that the research failed to show that the embryo was a genuine human clone created from the fusion of a human egg and an adult cell.

Professor Lee Bo-yeon, a medical researcher at the Kyunghee University Hospital in Seoul, told journalists that he had produced an embryo from an egg cell which had divided twice to the four-cell stage.

He said that he used a technique developed at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu, where scientists announced earlier this year that they had successfully cloned several generations of mice from a single female mouse. "Our experiment marked the first time that the more reliable cloning technology has been applied to human cells and might make human cloning more feasible," Professor Lee said.

The experiment, which has not been published in a peer-reviewed journal, was stopped when the embryo was at the four-cell stage because of a resolution adopted in 1993 by they removed the nucleus of an South Korean scientists prohibiting the research from going further.

"If implanted into the uterine wall of the carrier, we can which triggered the resulting assume that a human child would be formed and that it would have the same gene characteristics as that of the

donor," Professor Lee said. The Korean scientists said ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS THAT COULD APPLY TO PEOPLE



1962

John Gurdon, then a young developmental biologist at Oxford University, showed that is it possible to clone a vertebrate animal. He took cells from the intestine of a South African frog and transferred them into unfertilised eggs to produce fully mature adults. Several attempts to repeat the work on mammals failed, leading some scientists to suggest it was impossible.



1970s -1980s

In the late Seventies, Steen Willadsen, a scientist working at the Agricultural Research Council near Cambridge, showed cloning was possible in higher animals. such as cattle, by manipulating embryo cells. By the early Eighties it was an established method of making clones but scientists still believed it was impossible to cione embryos from adult animals' celis.



The Roslin Institute, near Edinburgh, used nuclear transfer to clone sheep. A pair of sheep clones - Megan and Morag developed by transferring embryonic cells into unfertilised eggs, were born in 1996. They were followed by Dolly, the first clone of an adult animal created by transferring a nucleus of an udder cell taken from a six-year-old ewe into an egg cell.



Scientists from the University of Hawaii in Honolulu successfully repeated the Dolly work using a slightly different approach. They managed to clone several generations of mice from a single adult female, using a process that was far less wasteful in terms of creating non-viable embryos. It was the first hard evidence to suggest that cloning could be applied to humans.

ject, said the Korean experiment had broken new ground, even if it is proved not to be scientifically valid. "The fact that someone tried to create cloned human embryos raises ethical concerns. Is it ethical to create a cloned embryo that you then have to destroy because it

**Pinochet** law lord 'could not be biased'

BY KIM SENGUPTA

THE LAW LORD who failed to declare his links with a human rights group while sitting in judgment on General Augusto Pinochet was not showing bias, and upheld principles which all reasonable men should support, the House of Lords was told vesterday.

Any revelation by Lord Hoffmann of his association with the charity connected to Amnesty International would have created "a potentially anarchic situation" in which a series of objections could be raised over the make-up of judges' panels, said Ahm Jones, QC, for the Crown Prosecution

Mr Jones told the hearing that judges are, and should be, involved in charities, and the principles Lord Hoffmann privately upheld - being opposed to torture and unlawful killings by the state - should meet with the approval of all who uphold the law.

A panel of five law lords is being asked by lawyers for General Pinochet to overturn the Lords' decision that the former Chilean dictator did not have immunity from pros-

Lord Hoffmann, a director and chairman of Amnesty's charity arm, Amnesty International Charity Ltd, cast the final and decisive vote in the original three-two ruling.

The chairman of the hearing, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, stated that, if possible, a decision on W would be unethical to allow it to the case would be given this

egg cell donated by a 30-yearold woman and replaced it with a nucleus taken from one of her ordinary "somatic" cells, embryo to divide twice to the four-cell stage.

However, experts from the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh, where Dolly the sheep

two years ago, said the South Korean work failed to show that the embryo was genuine and viable.

"Firstly, we do not believe the Korean group has sufficient scientific evidence to back its claim of having cloned a human embryo," said Dr Harry Griffin, the director of science at the institute. "The experiment was was cloned in a similar process stopped when the embryo was

seen dividing into four cells. A fertilised egg goes through the first few cell divisions - three in human – on 'autopilot' and it is only after the eight-cell stage that the nucleus of the cells take control of further development

A key factor in showing that the experiment has produced a genuine, viable clone was to determine whether the egg cell's

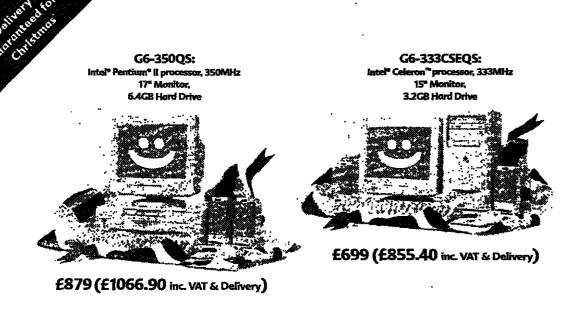
new nucleus really was in control of the cell. "By stopping the experiment when they did, the Korean researchers are unable to provide any evidence that the transferred nucleus had been successfully 'reprogrammed'," Dr Griffin added.

The institute also cast doubt on the cloning credentials of the Korean team. "There is little in the reports to suggest that Church of Scotland's Society become a baby?" he said.

their work is part of a sub-Religion and Technology Prostantial programme of research," Dr Griffin said. Professor Lee said the pur-

pose of the research was to investigate ways of producing human embryos to generate tissue for transplant surgery, and not to create a cloned baby.

Donald Bruce, a biomedical ethicist and director of the



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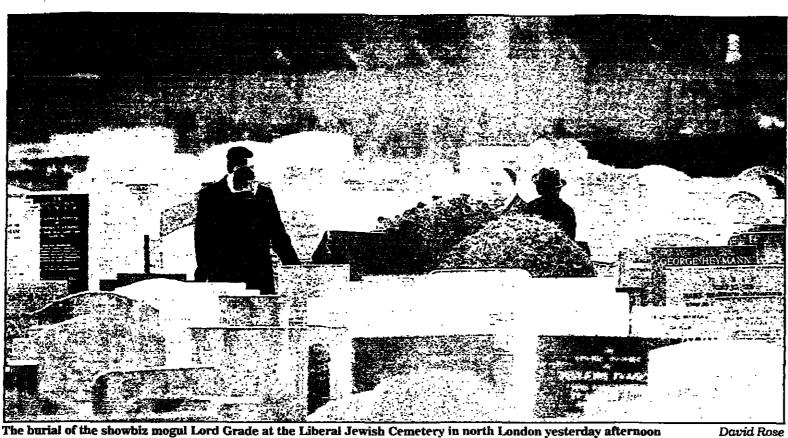
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ECTURE

## Lew Grade rides off into an art director's sunset



LEW GRADE, the last great By JOHN WALSH showbiz mogul of the 20th century, was buried at 4pm yesterday against a picture-perfect winter sunset straight from central casting. Jet aircraft drew white lines like a credit sequence across the sky of icy blue, while long elegiac clouds were touched with vivid reds

The over-the-top sunset was nicely appropriate for a man whose energies and enthusiasm were always on an epic scale.

Lord Grade, who died on Sunday morning, just 12 days short of his 92nd birthday – an anniversary he shared with the subject of one of his most successful films. Jesus Christ was buried at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery in Willesden, north London. The graveyard is pitched between the back of a suburban terrace and a children's playground.

The local rabbi sang by the graveside. The sky became a mad nursery daub of pinks and blues. This combination of grandeur and domesticity was mirrored by the service for which 200 friends and family

crowded into the bleak chapel with its stark wall heaters and tiny globe lamps.

It was a very private, dynastic affair. The press was excluded, although a platoon of paparazzi set up their telephoto lenses beyond the cemetery gates. Ennobled showbiz luminaries and friends from the media - David Puttnam, Jeremy Isaacs, Roger Moore - took their seats, along with a rogues' gallery, dimly familiar from Lord Grade's ATV adventure series in the Sixties. But there was no sign of Tony Curtis, who starred in Lord Grade's The Persuaders, nor of Joan Collins with whose father, Joe, Lord Grade set up his first theatrical agency; nor was there any trace of his most conspicuous world-

wide clients, the Muppets. Michael Grade spoke movingly of his favourite uncle with whom he shares a taste for tough bargaining and colossal cigars. "We will have to learn to live without the twinkie, the phone calls, the su-

whiff of Havana tobacco," he told the congregation. "The only good thing to come out of this is the thought that the world shortage in Cuban eig-

ars may now be at an end." Often close to tears, the Channel 4 chief said his uncle was never driven by mere personal gain. What interested him was the game - the idea. the pitch, the sale - and on to the next deal and the next." Had he been born in pre-business times, he said, Lew "would have surely been an explorer in unchartered territories".

Led by Lady Grade, former singer Kathleen Moody - they were married for 56 years - and his adopted son. Paul, the funeral party left for the Westminster Synagogue. By the limousines Eddie Bell, chairman of HarperCollins, who published Lord Grade's ebullient autobiography Still Dancing in 1967, looked stunned. "I can't believe he's dead," he said. "He rang me from New York only days ago to rave about a new writer he had discovered. I bought the book, too."

## Warning to editors on 'racist reports'

POLICE are threatening to BY JASON BENNETTO charge several newspaper editors with inciting racial hatred following inflammatory reports and comments on asylum-seekers arriving in Kent.

One editor has been called into Kent police offices and warned that he faces prosecution if his newspaper continues to publish offensive material. The offence carries a maximum 🕽 o-year jail term.

Detectives are compiling evlications and intend to issue further warnings to their editors.

The move follows complaints from several people including the Dover MP, Gwyn Prosser, and a solicitor who believe the newspapers are breaking the law and press guidelines. Kent police yesterday took the

unusual step of criticising local national newspapers for their coverage of the immigration issue, particularly recent reports about asylum-seekers arriving in Dover, Folkestone. Gravesend and Dartford.

A force spokesman described some of the reports as "inflammatory" and "unacceptable". He blamed them for beightening tensions and attracting far-right groups, such as the National

Earlier this month, Kent police warned Nick Hudson, group editor of a number of wekly newspapers including Folkestone Herald and Dover Express, that he risked being charged with inciting racial hatred.

Among the articles published in October in the Dover Express was an editorial headed "We want to wash dross down drain". It said: "Illegal immigrants, asylum-seekers, bootleggers ... and scum of the earth drug smugglers have targeted our beloved coastline ...

Crime Correspondent

we are left with the backdraft of a nation's human sewage and no cash to wash it down the drain."

In a story under the headline "DSS cheats are now into brothels" in October, about a campaign against the asylumseekers, it quoted a woman saying: "The police are called out up to 15 times a day because of immigrants shoplifting. And popped up around Dover."

Mr Hudson, who worked on the Daily Sport and Sunday Sport, said: "I'm merely reflecting my mailbag. I don't think we are making the news. we are merely reflecting it."

A spokesman for Kent police said: "There has been a lot of inflammatory coverage which has raised tensions among communities and attracted members of far-right organisations, which is something which concerns us greatly."

Among the incidents to provoke a flurry of negative articles - most noticeably in The Sun and the Daily Mail - was the discovery several weeks ago of 103 Romanian men, women and children hiding in the back of a lorry in Dartford.

Five days ago, the door of a house in Dover where two Slovakian refugees had been staying was set alight in a suspected race attack.

Following the articles on the Romanians, police had to deploy extra officers to give them protection.

Mr Prosser, a Labour MP, said: "One of the local newspapers in recent months took a most hostile view on the asvlum and immigration problem. It added to the difficulties in Dover and inflamed an already difficult situation."

## **Deportation of** woman 'invalid'

AN ASYLUM-SEEKER walked By JASON BENNETTO free yesterday after the Court of Appeal ruled that the Home Secretary had unlawfully held the woman in custody for nearly seven months. Ganiyatu Sanusi, 20, a Nigerian, wept after she was released, but she still faces deportation.

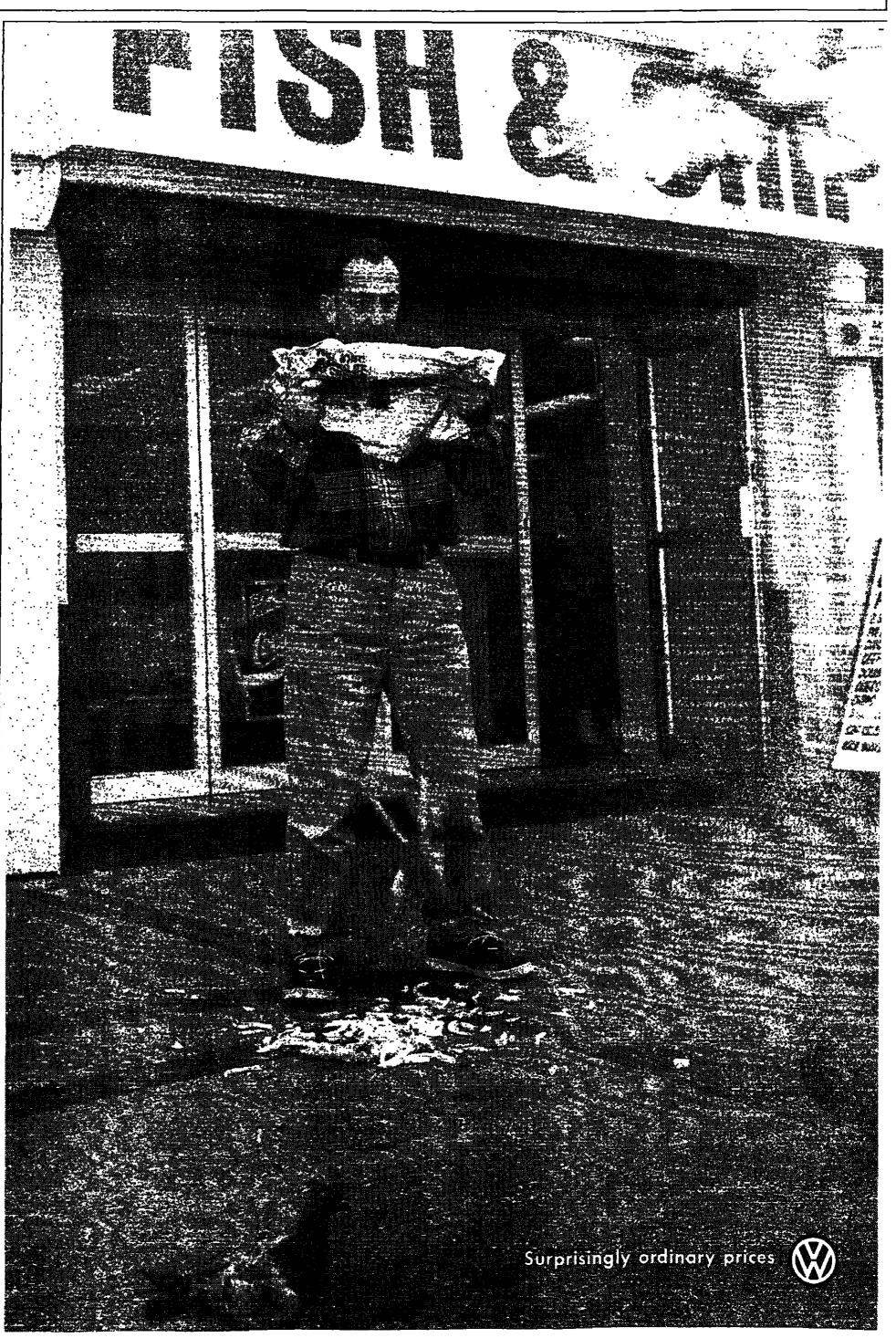
Following yesterday's ruling Ms Sanusi's lawyer claimed that hundreds of other asylum-seekdecision, although this was later denied by the Home Office.

The three Court of Appeal judges ruled that Jack Straw had made "an invalid deportation order" for Ms Sanusi. They said the Home Secretary could A attempt to deport someone le their application for asylo. n was still being considered.

judgment should go directly to Mr Straw who should give "anxious and careful consideration" to the woman's situation and take notice of their comments when he reconsidered her application to stay in Britain.

Ms Sanusi, who has been in Britain since her 13th birthday and married a British citizen ers would benefit from the court nearly two years ago, said: "I am so happy now. This means I can now go back to college to study accountancy."

A Home Office spokeswoman said that officials would be examining yesterday's ruling before deciding whether to try to deport Ms Sanusi. She said that they may make a petition directly to the House of Lords Lord Justices Evans, Ward in an attempt have the judgand Brooke ordered that their ment overturned.



## Altogether now, let's sing along to Blair's favourite tunes

Prime Minister's Questions, because, aithough my experience of recalcitrant and murderous Middle Eastern dictators is limited I do have young children and have learnt, like many parents, that you should never make a threat that you don't have the will and the means to carry out. My own situation, granted, is less serious in its consequences than Mr Blair's. But the general principle holds. Though I have sometimes longed for a stand-off destructive capability so that I could threaten to take out one

Saddam problem as I sat down for a first-strike target, I think) unless he immediately complies with parental resolutions on footwearimplementation, I know that any such action would involve unpredictable hand-to-hand fighting. Naturally I lose my nerve, make more threats and before long the fiveyear-old is blithely expressing the view that I am a pooh-head - much what Iraq has recently been saying, in slightly more sophisticated terms, to the United Nations weapons inspectors.

It was significant, then, to find that Mr Blair had done with making threatening noises, which, as

I WAS thinking about Tony Blair's stallations (Star Wars firebase as most children swiftly recognise, are usually a deferment of action rather than a reliable guarantee that it will follow. And William Hagne was in equally grave and serious mood, rising from his seat after a Prime Ministerial jab at Tory administration of public services not to rebuff the insult but to offer the full support of the Opposition at this difficult hour. All he wanted was an assurance that Saddam Hussein himself was on the list of legitimate targets and the opportunity to express solidarity with the men and women of the armed services.

The issue, it seemed, had passed beyond debate - but for the unTHE SKETCH

SUTCLIFFE

conscripted presence of Tony Benn, rising to inveigh against the legality and morality of any proposed atconcluded, a remark that pressed a consensual moan of impatience from the House, with its suggestion that the Prime Minister should be seen as a biddable child in this affair, rather than the reluctant administrator of discipline.

It was probably the sharpest opposition Mr Blair faced all afternoon, though he was pressed hard on recent changes to the pension system, which the Tories had identified as bearing down rather grievously on the thrifty poor. The Prime Minister didn't answer, seizing the wheel and steering the House back

as a whole. He opted for a detour a little earlier too, after a challenge from Ian Bruce over the employment rates for 18- to 24-year-olds. Mr Blair was a little rattled by the statistics he quoted, I think, given that he started by addressing himself directly to employment figures ("His facts are wrong") but segued into that old crowd pleaser "Interests Rates Have Fallen". His wheeling out of this old standard brought about a golden oldies section of the performance, with an

obliging Labour backbencher rising

to invite the Prime Minister to

tack. "Why does he do everything he's told by President Clinton," he towards the general instrousness he's told by President Clinton," he operation Is Better Than Confrontation".

Perhaps Millbank could get together with K-Tel to issue a compilation album of the Prime Minister's best-loved melodies. It would make the perfect gift for ambitious Labour backbenchers, who could settle down over the Christmas breakand hum along to those unforgettable hits – "No More Boom and Bust", "We'll Take No Lessons From The Gentleman Opposite", "Eighteen years and Eighteen months" - all these and more, in a collection you'll come to cherish. Karaoke version only, of course.

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# Hague backs use of force in the Gulf

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS PM'S QUESTIONS given unequivocal backing yesterday by the Tory leader, William Hague, for the use of military action against Saddam Hussein providing it had "clear and achievable objectives".

pressure from his own benches when Tony Benn, the veteran left-winger, claimed that any bombing of Iraq would be "illegal in international law", adding: "Why do you do everything you are told by President Clinton?"

Mr Blair insisted during the last Question Time of this year that President Saddam was operating a "plan of deceit" to prevent weapons inspections, threatening not just the Middle East but the "whole of the

He said: "Given Iraq's manifest failure to co-operate over the last month, I am quite satisfied that if we should choose to use force, we have the necessary legal authority to do so."

Expressing the Tories' support for military strikes, Mr Hague told the Prime Minister: "In the light of the fact that Sad-

BY SARAH SCHAEFER Political Correspondent

dam Hussein is still failing to comply with UN resolutions on weapons of mass destruction But Tony Blair came under and bearing in mind your assurance last month that nothing less than complete compliance is acceptable, can I assure you of the full support of the Opposition for the use of military action in the days ahead, provided that action has clear and achievable objectives."

Replying. Mr Blair said the report by the chief weapons inspector, Richard Butler, listed in very clear terms the "obstacles placed in the way of the weapons inspectors, the delays, the deceit, the refusal to provide documents, the restrictions on inspections".

He went on: "Nobody who reads that report can seriously doubt its conclusions that Unscom [the inspection committeel is unable to carry out its job properly. Indeed the report states that there are greater restrictions now than previously." Mr Blair reminded MPs of the

"very clear assurance" given by the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, on 14 November that Iraq would co-operate unconditionally with the UN inspectors, saying: "That promise

is clearly now broken." Mr Benn, MP for Chesterfield, warned the Prime Minister that military action would be contrary to the UN charter which required unanimity among the five permanent members of the Security Council.

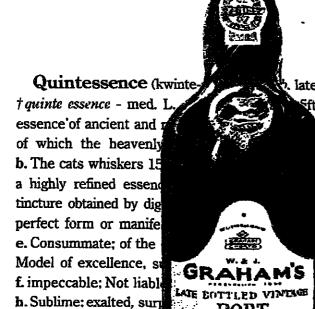
He said: "It would also be illegal in international law, it will cause the death of many innocent people ... leaving Saddam stronger and it will inflame the Middle East. And why do you do everything you are told by President Clinton, instead of taking an independent view in support of the charter?"

Mr Blair denied "such action would be unlawful", adding: "Itake it as agreed that the regime of Saddam Hussein must be stopped from building these weapons of mass destruction. The question is how. It can either be done by him complying ... or we have to look for other ways in



The number of beacon schools will go up from 75 to 200 next year David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said while visiting order to enforce his agreement." a nursery school in Islington, London, which has beacon status, aimed at sharing the secret of its educational success Andrew Buurman

## **GRAHAM'S**



wonder. i. The top dog

most refined of its kind

late ME. [- Fr. quintessence, fth essence.] 1. The 'fifth hilosophy, the substance odies were composed. I part of any substance; chemistry, an alcoholic hc. The purest or most 570. d. The bees knees ection or completeness. kcellent person or thing. aultless. g. King pin e as to inspire awe or of a q.; the purest or Quintesse-ntially adv.

## Inquiry of 'little use' Commons

AN MPS' inquiry into the "Arms to Africa" affair has served little

BY FRAN ABRAMS useful purpose, the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said yesterday.

Mr Cook, facing the last of 11 public sessions between the Foreign Affairs Select Committee and Foreign Office ministers or officials on the issue, claimed the MPs' inquiry had simply covered old ground.

The official inquiry by Sir Thomas Legg, published in July, had provided a full version of what happened, Mr Cook suggested. The Foreign Office had already acted on its

"I don't think your hearings have covered a single material fact that was not already in Legg," Mr Cook said. He criticised the committee's

Westminster Correspondent attempt to investigate the matter while Sir Thomas' inquiry

was going on, saying it would have placed a "double jeopardy" on officials. Since it emerged in May that officials met mercenaries who shipped arms to Sierra Leone in breach of an embargo, Mr Cook has appeared be-

fore the committee three times. His junior minister, Tony Lloyd. has appeared twice. Sir John Kerr, the Foreign Office permanent secretary, has appeared five times. The High Commissioner to Sierra Leone. Peter Penfold, appeared once.

about Sandline International's plans to aid the exiled government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, but had not been believed. He said as not aware of any such communication.

A Foreign Office spokesman said GCHQ officials "have confirmed there is no substance to Yesterday the Foreign Sec- these allegations".

retary said he accepted mistakes had been made. A more

politically aware atmosphere in

the Foreign Office might have

led to the issue being drawn to

his attention sooner, he said. He

also criticised Mr Penfold for

not making sure he had a copy

of the order which confirmed

looking into a report that GCHQ

had warned his department

Mr Cook said the FO was

the embargo in British law.

## Editor denies being MI6 agent

IS DOMINIC Lawson, the editor SPECULATION of The Sunday Telegraph, a paid MI6 agent? The question was raised yesterday in the House of Commons under parliamentary privilege.

It follows reports at the weekend that renegade MI6 officer Richard Tomlinson claims that a national newspaper editor had been recruited and paid by MI6. Speculation over the identity of the editor has been rife in the media.

THE HOUSE

Poli rules fear

THE INDEPENDENCE of

MPs could be eroded by

registration of political

parties, Martin Bell, the

warned. Mr Bell said the

Registration of Political

Parties Act, under which

candidates are not allowed

confusion of the electorate,

democracy". "I stood in the

election as an Independent.

I sit in the House as an

Independent. What else

should I be? The Tatton

Park Party, the Flat Earth

Independent MP for Tatton.

new rules on the

to register as an

was a "threat to

independent to avoid

BY PAUL LASHMAR AND

PAUL MCCANN

Yesterday, Labour MP Brian Sedgemore (Hackney South and Shoreditch) named Mr Lawson as being at the centre of the allegations. "That seems a very odd thing," he said.

"It would be very damaging for the press if it were true. It's an allegation being made by Mr Richard Tomlinson. I have no

Party ...? It doesn't make

Abuse checks

hvsical and sexual abuse

checks on people who work

by introducing stringent

with them could become

Government backing. The

Private Member's Bill, will

Shipley, the Labour MP for

be put forward by Debra

law next year with

A BACKBENCH bill to

protect children from

tings by three hours, to start at 11.30am, with main business finidea whether it is true but it ished at 7pm, rather than 10pm, surely is something we should

Mr Lawson yesterday denied he was an agent for anybody. A spokesman for the Foreign Office, which oversees MI6. said: "This comes from a now wearily familiar source to us of sensational inventions... we can point out very forcefully that [we] would never have an agent who is the editor of a

the changes starting from January through to the end of this parliamentary session next autumn. The plans have been criticised by Betty Boothroyd, the Commons Speaker, who said such changes would limit

hours

reform

**HOUSE REFORM** 

Political Reporter

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

MPs WERE last night poised to

back overwhelmingly reforms

to introduce more family-

friendly working hours despite

concern from the Tories that it

would lead to a 'four-day week".

a report by the all-party select

committee on modernisation of

ett, which recommended an

experiment with morning sit-

The Government proposed bringing forward Thursday sit-

tings on Thursdays.

the House, chaired by Com-mons Leader Margaret Beck-

They were likely to support

boosted

public access to Parliament. Opening debate on the matter, which is to be decided by a free vote, Mrs Beckett warned: "Institutions that fail to change are institutions that die."

#### British newspaper." Upset at US link BRITAIN AND the Labour

Government have been "Americanised" David Amess, the Tory MP for Southend W said, claiming the close links between the Prime Minister and President Bill Clinton were "deeply damaging" for the country.

Tax rethink plea TONY BLAIR was urged to think again about the abolition of company tax credits, amid bitter Commons clashes with William Hague over the Government's pensions shake-up. The Tory Leader accused the Government of hitting hard-working savers by abolishing a tax relief for

## **QUESTIONS** AND

ANSWERS non-taxpayers on company dividends.

Today's Business COMMONS, 2,30pm:

Questions to Agriculture ministers and Attorney General. Scottish Enterprise Bill. Short debate on contribution of tourism, leisure and sport to the economy LORDS. 3pm: Disability Rights Commission Bill. Debate on future of Baglan Energy Park project in Neath-Port Talbot.

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Planning: Rising concern over superstores' impact on small towns as thousands of independent retailers close every year

# Historic town set for battle of Tesco

THE SHOPKEEPERS of Bever- BY ESTHER LEACH ley are calling it Round One. As they heard that planners had thrown out Tesco's proposed supermarket in their medieval market town, they were readying themselves for Round Two.

"There's bound to be an appeal by Tesco's. They are not the sort to run away." said John Dibb, owner of the Fresh and Good fruit and veg shop.

He and others in the East Yorkshire town have for months been urging people to say No to Tesco, on banners strung across the streets and posters in windows of the many traditional and specialist shops.

"Beverley is unique in this area. It's like a mini York or a mini Norwich. Tesco's would be just a brick lump on the edge of the town centre which would snuff the life out of the place," said Mr Dibb.

It's a familiar argument one that has been heard across Britain over the past 10 years. Mr Dibb believes that building a supermarket with a retail area of 54,900sq ft and spaces for 478 cars on the site of the 1,300-year-old cattle market would draw trade out of the heart of Beverley, ultimately killing it.

"It's false to think the supermarket will attract more people to the town. People won't be bothered after they've shopped at the supermarket."

Nick Render, owner of a Beverley for 13 years, agreed. AND KATHY MARKS

traditional market town and it promised a good trade, but now the place is losing that identity as more and more multiples move in. I am already losing money with the introduction of paid parking. I told my partner if another supermarket opens here I would move out.

A generation ago, there were 40,000 independent retailers in Britain; now there are just 10,000. The superstores that have sprung up on the fringes of towns and on sites farther afield over the past two decades have played a large part in

Opponents say that the superstores - there are now more than 1,000 of them around Britain - have torn the hearts out of traditional market towns, forcing small shops to close and ruining social life in rural

Grocers are closing at a rate of 800 a year; butcher shops at a rate of 1,000. And as the large food retailers diversify to offer other services, post offices, drycleaners, pharmacies and newsagents are suffering too.

The impact was spelt out in a report commissioned by the Government which was published in September. The report, by the consultancy CB Hillier Parker, found that superstores reduce trade in local shops by up to 50 per cent.



Beverley is an ancient market town full of traditional and specialist shops. Traders fear that a Tesco store would ruin them

out-of-town shopping complexes, but decisions on whether to grant planning permission are made by local authorities in the first instance.

in the town centres than are created in the new stores. Nor do they "claw back" trade from

discourage the building of more contrary to the claims of re- more distant shopping comtailers, such developments do plexes, it said. not boost local employment, as The authors recommended

on average more jobs are lost that planning regulations be tightened and that permission for superstores be granted only

The food retail chains are opment on the edge of the increasingly targeting smaller towns, which are least able to digest the impact. In Cumbria. for instance, the supermarket Booths has won planning permission for a 21,000sq ft devel-

picturesque town of Kirkby Lonsdale, which has a population of only 1,600.

It is not only out-of-town superstores that kill town centres. Those on the edge of towns and even in the centres damage the traditional high

Traffic jams can be a byproduct of supermarkets. In Newbury, Berkshire, the congestion that led to the construction of the controversial bypass is blamed on two out-oftown supermarkets whose carborne customers clogged the roads leading to them.

Numerous disputes are looming around the UK. In Hexham, Northumberland, for instance, Safeway wants to build a 9,000sq ft development on the edge of town. Traders fear it would pull shoppers away from the historic town centre because it would be located on the other side of a busy main road.

Some towns are fighting back. In Leominster, near Hereford, local traders have launched a loyalty card - used to obtain gifts and discounts which they say has helped to win back customers from a Safeway store. Thirty-five shops in the centre had closed.

Meanwhile, the shopkeepers of Beverley await their fate. Tesco said it was "highly likely" that it would appeal to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and Environment Secretary, against the decision of East Riding Council planning committee.

The benefits to the council at least, are obvious. The deal would have made the local authority £7.5m on the sale of

## 'I see no future for · the High Street'

By John Davison

"DUCK AND orange sausages. Better than Viagra," it says on the sign outside the shop of R J Balson & Son. alongside more standard encouragement to order Christmas turkeys NOW. The firm, in Bridport, Dorset - which boasts of being England's oldest family butchers (since 1535) - is clearly not fraid to move with the t In four years since a Safeway superstore opened outside the town it has had to, or face going out of business.

"You have got to concentrate on things that the supermarkets don't do. We do a lot of game, that kind of stuff, otherwise we just couldn't compete," said Richard Balson, the pro-**2** ietor. The "Viagra" sausages oster came about he said, after four customers who were having problems conceiving got pregnant within a month of eating the specialist fayre (£2.60 In the year following the su-

perstore opening it was reported that 40 businesses had gone under, and the High Street was pitted with boarded up shops. Yesterday, on market day, Bridport looked like any other thriving small town, with only an ice cream parlour standing vacant. But many of the old general retailers have been replaced by estate agents, solicitors, cafes, gift and charity shops. Meanwhile, the car park at Safeway, about half a mile from the town hall, looked comfortably full.

Not everyone is unhappy. Locals say that the superstore is rarely crowded, it is bright, warm, and the staff are friendly and helpful. It is convenient and, crucially, the parking is "You could see the prob-

lems when we first got here but the town has managed to revive itself," said Ros Fry, who arrived from London four years ago with her family. "As the shops close they are replaced





Safeway (top) is challenging trade in Bridport where Samatha Pritchard/Apex

shops which have definitely added something to the place." Recent additions include a patisserie and a record shop which will find you "absolutely anything", she said. A recent frustrating shopping trip to London ended with her finding the gift she was after in Bridport's gentleman's outfitters.

Community campaigners say that the influx of people from outside, including a large number of retired people, has distorted the local economy, leaving it vulnerable to a general downturn. But recent research by a student at Bournemouth University found that 37.5 per cent of retailers felt that the superstore had had a noticeable effect on

Farmers' Markets in the town, where producers sell direct to the public. "Small towns are seeing that food can be a way to rejuvenate the local economy," said Mr Crabtree. "It is a lesson that all small towns

need to learn."

It is a message that would certainly be welcomed by Alan Holland, who runs Washing Pool Farm Produce, the only remaining town centre greengrocer. He saw his business cut by 50 per cent overnight when the superstore opened. He survives by servicing the growing local restaurant sector. "We have only kept going because we're a family and we grow a lot of our own stuff," he said. "Maybe increased tourism will save us, otherwise I don't see

## a future for the High Street." Shopping is coming

A NEW service unveiled yesterday will enable shoppers to avoid crowded supermarkets communicate with us from any by ordering goods by remote control

Customers at Safeway will soon be able to compile their shopping lists on portable electronic organisers before picking up their groceries ready for collection. The palm-sized device is being marketed at people who want to shop from home without needing to go online. Mike Winch, Safeway's in-

formation technology director. Faid: "We have provided a personalised system which can be The idea is for the consumer to business for supermarkets and

By LINUS GREGORIADIS

place at any time. All you need is a phone socket to plug it into:"

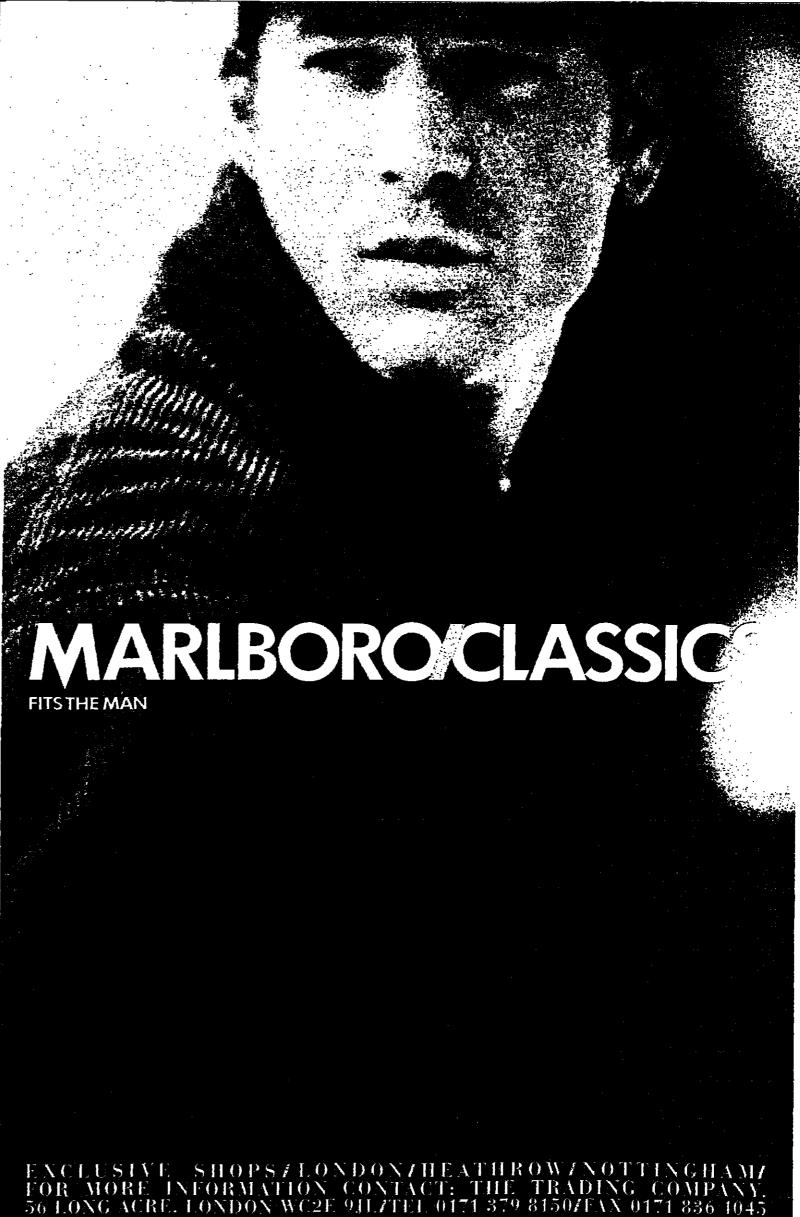
The scheme - called Easi-Orders - will be tested in Basingstoke, Hampshire, from February and will be introduced by other Safeway shops if successful. The chain is giving away the devices during the trial but has yet to decide if it will charge for them should the service be expanded.

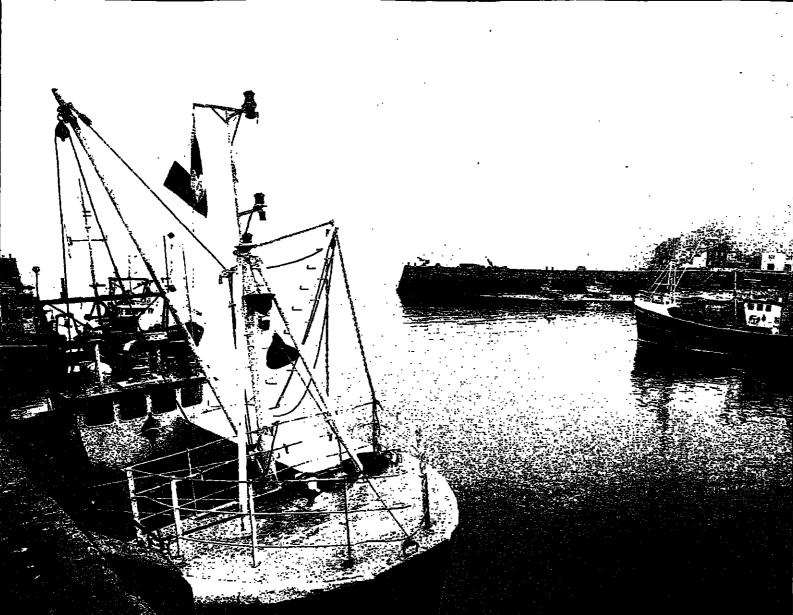
With 9 million Britons already connected to the Internet, shopping from home is used with the minimum of fuss. already a rapidly expanding

other shops. A recent survey by Dell Computer and Louis Harris & Associates found 43 per cent of British computer owners were planning to buy something-online this Christmas.

Safeway said it is aiming to create a scheme which combines Internet technology with a personalised system. Colin. Smith, it's chief executive, said: "We can now deliver an intelligent, unique and portable shopping service."

Noel Rees, retail industry director at IBM, which has helped to develop the project, said: "This combines the power of network computing with easy-to-use handheld devices."





Whitby fishermen face cuts in permitted catches next year including a reduction of nearly 25% in the North Sea haddock quota Brian Harris

# Fishermen braced for quota cuts

THE GOVERNMENT will today gree to massive cuts in British fishing quotas proposed by Brussels under Europe-wide plans designed to conserve rapidly-dwindling stocks.

The move, likely to provoke consternation among British fishermen, will come at a crunch meeting of European et total annual catches.

Britain will call for changes to just five of the 50 categories which affect the UK, dashing the hopes of most of the country's 10,000 fishermen who argue that their livelihoods are

A British official argued: to just over half. We are taking a cautious approach based on scientific advice. We need to conserve stocks today otherwise we run the risk of there being no fish stocks in the future."

At today's meeting, Eliot Morley, the Fisheries Minister, will agree to a 23 per cent reduction in the 80,370 tonnes of herring fished this year off in Brussels

62,000 tonnes in 1999. British fishermen are entitled to 60 per cent of that catch.

Other traditional British fish-

ing waters which will be hit include haddock catches in the North Sea, where the UK agrees with a cut to the total catch from 115,000 tonnes in 1998 to 88,500 next year - a cut of nearly a quarter. The UK's quota is 78 per cent of this figure. The whiting catch will also be slashed from 60,000 tonnes to 44,000 tonnes next year, a drop of 27 per cent. British fishermen are entitled

And cod fishermen in the Irish Sea will also be hit. British fishermen are allowed to land 43 per cent of the total permitted catch which was 7,100 tonnes this year. In 1999, the figure is set to be reduced to

5,500 tonnes, a cut of 23 per cent. Of the five areas where Britain is seeking an increase, the biggest is haddock fishing off the west coast of Scotland. where a reduction from 25,700 to 18,100 is planned. The UK. which is entitled to 81 per cent of that catch, believes that the scientific evidence does not fully support the cut.

dock off the west coast of scotland; herring in the Irish Sea: plaice in the English Channel and sole in the Bristol Channel and Celtic Sea.

In one area the UK will argue for a lower total catch than Brussels proposes. For sprat in the North Sea the European Commission wants to see increases from 150,000 this year to 175,000 next. Mr Morley wants

to stick at this year's figure. The figures for total allowable catches are drawn un on the basis of data from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. The commission says that "concern remains for a number of stocks" although in a few exceptions, such as plaice and mitted catches will increase.

Detailed negotiations are likely to go into the early hours

Mediterranean countries over bluefin tuna stocks. France and Spain are holding out against moves to redistribute some of their quota to Italy and Greece, both of which have suffered though the size of the total The other catches where catch is small, the fish is one of Mr Morley will be arguing for the most valuable in the world a increases are: cod and had- due to its popularity in Japan.

## Irvine would not ban boy's killers' book

LORD IRVINE, the Lord Chancellor, was plunged into fresh controversy yesterday after he said that the boys who murlered James Bulger should be allowed to write a book about cellor's comments. "I think the their crime.

In a comment that drew criticism from both James's moth- in on my son's death - it makes er and opposition politicians, account could "add to the sum total of human knowledge".

"I obviously don't find it attractive that somebody can earn money from giving an account of a criminal activity." he said. "On the other hand I cannot bring myself to prohibit it, because of the public interest in knowing about these things, so I think there is a balance." He added: "I don't think anyone would find it attractive - but the sum total of human

knowledge is added to." Robert Thompson and Jon Venables were detained at Her Majesty's pleasure after they were convicted of murdering James Bulger. The pair were aged just 10 when, in February 1993, they abducted two-yearold James from a shopping centre in Bootle, Merseyside, before leading him to disused

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Yesterday James' mother, Denise Bulger, 30, said she was sgusted by the Lord Chan Lord Chancellor is totally wrong to allow anyone to cash me sick." she said. "He is al-Lord Irvine said such an most encouraging someone to write a book by not banning it."

Lord Irvine made his con-ments at a regional newspaper conference last Friday. They were reported yesterday in the Liverpool Echo

Yesterday a spokeswoman for the Lord Chancellor said the comments he made were general and not specific to any case.

Lord Irvine's comments appear to put him at odds with the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, who has said he that he does not believe criminals, including Thompson and Venables, should be allowed to profit from their crimes

Last night Conservative home affairs spokesman James Clappison said: "The Lord Chancellor must clarify his position on this most contentious of issues, as it appears he and the Home Secretary are on a land and beating him to death. collision course."

## Icelandic sagas for a long life

THE SECRET to a long life lies BY CATHY COMERFORD somewhere in Iceland, according to a new book of facts and figures on Europe.

Icelanders expect to live the longest of all the 46 countries included in the Economist Pocket Europe in Figures despite also having the highest level of nitrogen oxide emissions per head.

Air pollution notwithstanding, Icelanders can expect to live to be 79.3 compared with age 77.1 in the United Kingdom. Perhaps the fact that Iceland also has the best currency rate against the dollar means they feel able to sit back and look forward to old age in comfort.

The UK, while landing an unlucky 13th in the life expectancy race, can look to its laurels for comfort. It has won the highest number of Nobel prizes in the sciences and economics since the awards began in 1950. gaining 47 prizes with Germany running a slow second at

only 26. The guide, published by Profile Books in London and compiled by the Economist's research department, is a veritable goldmine of enlightenment, particularly where preconceptions about a nation's habits abound.

It may not come as a great surprise to learn that we love our music, buying on average the most LPs, cassettes and CDs each in Europe last year. But it is the Belgians who are the continent's top CD consumers with 98 per of their alburns bought in CD format. Hungary has the best ear for classical music while the UK falls to joint eighth alongside the home of opera. Italy.

Also, contrary to our image abroad as a nation of huge drinkers, the Czechs take the prize as the biggest beer consumers and Portugese the biggest wine guzzlers.





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# Haughey is ·let off £2m tax liability

CHOSTS OF Charles Haughey scandals past returned to haunt Taoiseach Bertie Ahern vesterday when it emerged that the former premier had had a tax liability on £2m of secret gifts reduced to zero.

Mr Ahern became implicated when opposition deputies (TDs) discovered that the extraordinary concession was overseen by his own brother-in-law, Ronan Kelly, a tax appeals commissioner. The finance spokesman of the Democratic Left party, Pat Rabbitte, asked Mr Ahern if he accepted that it "gives the wrong impression to the public, without reflecting in any way on the man's competence, that the brother-in-law of the present leader of Fianna Fail should adjudicate on the tax affairs of a former leader of Fianna Fail?"

Mr Haughey's liability was dropped on the technicality that tax authorities had not conclusively documented the identity of the donor. The total liability is believed to have been close to £2m.

Amid rowdy scenes in the Dai, opposition critics alleged that Mr Ahern had himself appointed Mr Kelly to his present post without advertisement. Mr Ahern replied that he first heard of Mr Kelly's involvement when he read about in yesterday's Dublin newspapers.

The latest escape by Mr

previous icebergs earned him the nickname "Houdini", was greeted with general disbelief.

Some of the gifts - three bank drafts totalling £210,000 were handed to Mr Haughey at his Georgian mansion by supermarket magnate Ben Dunne in 1991 with the words "Here's something for yourself." The politician replied "Thanks Big Fella," the McCracken tribunal investigating payments to politicians was told in July last year.

Mr Haughey, who finally admitted this payment, faces prosecution next year for obstructing the tribunal's work Labour leader Ruairi Quinn

said it was "simply incomprehensible" to ordinary taxpayers how an appeals process could doubt the payment when it had been admitted by Mr Haughey. He said it was "incredible.. when a tribunal set up by this house that found that a man was corrupted while in the office of this country" should not be required to pay tax due even on the £210,000 he specif-

ically confirmed receiving. Mr Ahern said the Depart ment of Finance could appeal against the decision to either the circuit, high or supreme courts. Later, the Finance Minister, Charles McCreevy, told the Dail Haughey, whose skill in eluding he would not comment on indi-

vidual cases but insisted the appeals avenue was open to all. His response was greeted with calls of "outrageous" from opposition benches. Mr McCreevy also confirmed that Mr Ahern appointed Mr Kelly during an interregnum between governments on 9 December 1992.

Last night, pressure on Mr Ahern increased as his Progressive Coalition partners demanded the publication of the Haughey appeal. Despite possessions including a 280-acre Dublin estate, a private island, racehorses, a yacht and a family helicopter company, Mr Haughey told the McCracken tribunal "I want to say I did not have a lavish lifestyle."



Former Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey. It has been revealed that his tax liability on £2m of secret gifts has been reduced to zero

## MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH WHAT QUIRK of fate used to

decide that it was always old-age pensioners, rather than yuppies, who would receive nasty letters from the gas company demanding immediate payment of £0.00? Whatever it was, a similar one is now operating in relation to the millennium bug.

An entertaining article in the latest edition of the American magazine Vanity Fair collects a wonderful litany of "Y2K" errors that have cropped up in the past couple of years as (American) companies and organisations have realised that due to report to kindergarten: testing is part of the process.

In some cases, the realisation has been forced on them - such as the three hospitals and 75 clinics in Pennsylvania whose appointments in 1888, and was 104. system shut down when a



user tried to schedule a visit for January 2000. But all those fade before the letter that dropped onto a

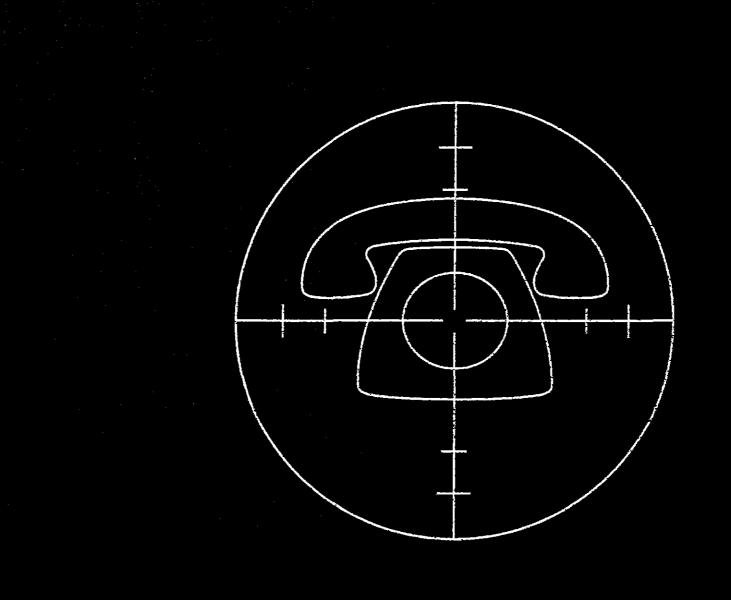
Mary Bandar lived. It was from the schools inspectorate, informing Mary that she was according to the computer, she had just hit the magic age of four years old.

Close, as they say, but no cigar. Mary Bandar was born CHARLES ARTHUR



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# Doctors who choose to reject the old

LEGAL MEASURES to combat By FRAN ABRAMS age discrimination in the Westminister Correct National Health Service and in financial services could be proposed in Parliament next year, campaigners say.

The charity Age Concern, which made an impact earlier this year with an "age dis-crimination week", hopes to persuade sympathetic MPs to push through the moves by

amending government Bills.
It says elderly people face being struck off by doctors because they may require costly treatment, and sometimes find receive the same care as a younger person. Routine breastcancer screening stops at 64. difficult to get car insurance, mortgages and cheap credit.

Age Concern says a new voluntary code of practice on discrimination at work is unlikely to go far enough. Before the election, Labour promised legislation on the issue. However, a private member's Bill brought by Linda Perham, the ed for dialysis or transplants. Labour MP for Ilford North,

Westminster Correspondent

Jonathan Stearn, the charity's public affairs manager, said Bills about to be published on primary health and financial regulation could be amendable to protect the elderly.

"We have heard of examples where people have had coronaries in their early seventies, and their relatives have heard doctors pleading with the coronary unit to treat them, saying they are quite young for their age. Rehabilitation units disthat when they are ill they do not criminate against older people. That is what we want to see stamped out," he said.

According to Age Concern, Pensioners also find it more 40 per cent of post heart-attack rehabilitation programmes impose age limits on admissions, along with 20 per cent of ten coronary units have age limits on the use of anti-clotting drugs after heart attacks, and their seventies are not accept-

their GP's surgery, where they had been registered for more than 30 years, saying they lived too far away to be treated there. Both are fit and healthy for their age. But their doctor had retired and his replacement objected to treating them.

"We had both reached the age of 80 and to me, that felt suspicious. The surgery is about 20 minutes' walk from our coronary care units. Four out of house, and the other doctor never had any trouble coming to us," Mr Bridgeman said.

In the financial services sectwo-thirds of kidney patients in tor, Age Concern has heard from a number of pensioners who have been refused deals

told she could have interest-free credit to buy a settee and a chair, only to have the offer withdrawn when she revealed

that she was in her seventies. A man who asked his bank for a £15,000 mortgage had his request turned down, but was offered a much more expensive loan. The same bank later offered his granddaughter a bigger mortgage, although she had no permanent job. Age discrimination does not

only affect pensioners. People in their forties often have trouble finding work, Linda Johnson, now 46, was made redundant last year after 25 years as a foreign exchange broker. She says when her company made cutbacks it targeted the over-forties.

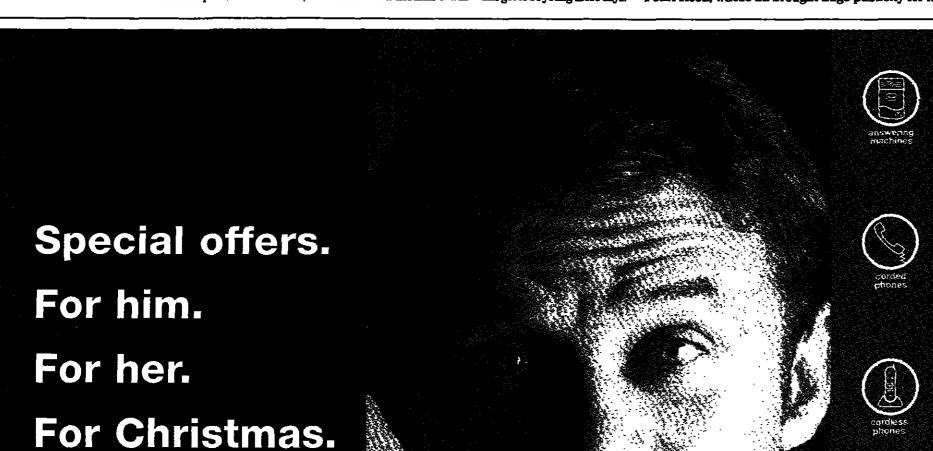
Despite her experience Mrs Johnson could not find a suitable full-time job. She signed on with 20 agencies to no avail, and eventually took a part-time secretarial job.

"I went to one place where no one was over 25. I saw job specs which said they would suit people in their twenties or



Arthur Bridgeman, 80, of because of their age. One thirties," she said. "Everyone Southampton, and his wife, woman in Hertfordshire was has got to be young these days."

Pearl Reed, whose ad brought huge publicity for Age Concern's anti-discrimination campaign







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## Torrid life of anti-ageists' role model



'It was great fun, and it worked,' said Pearl Reed

WHEN Pearl Reed was picked BY FRAN ABRAMS as the model for Age Concern's anti-discrimination campaign a put Pearl's poster on one year ago, she thought it would be a straightforward photographic job.

What happened next came tabloid press were camped outn studio to another Once, she was even smuggled out in the boot of a car to avoid photographers.

There were two reasons for the intense interest in the 56year-old. One was Age Concern's decision to splash shots of her Wonderbra-clad breasts above a caption reading: "The first thing some people see is her age." The other was that had a relationship with David Bulstrode, former chairman of Queen's Park Rangers football

She had told the charity about her past before the cam- ad has not changed her forpaign began, but had been hop-

ing it would not become public. When a lot of my personal life came out I phoned to apologise because I thought it might be harmful to them. But they were really quite pleased in a way, because it gave them a lot of tabloid coverage," she

rate as one of the most cost than just get my kit off," she effective ever run. The charity said.

mobile billboard and relied on the press to do the rest.

It worked splendidly. There were 2,000 responses from thet. as something of a shock. The public, 10 solid hours of broadcasting time, hundreds of colside her Sussex home for a umn inches and interest from month as she whirled from one as far afield as Argentina, Italy declared even more successful than the original Wonderbra ad featuring Eva Herzegova

"It was a big surprise, but it was great," Ms Reed told The Independent. "It was great fun, and I was very pleased for Age Concern because they we stepping outside the norm and

it worked." Ms Reed says she undershe was once married to a stands the campaign because gangster, Joe Wilkins, and later she too has suffered age discrimination when seeking work as an actress and model often finding it difficult to get invited to castings.

Ironically, the success of the tunes dramatically. Companies do not necessarily want to hire someone so closely linked with another organisation, though she has made two short films.

She was invited to a casting for a nude hormone replacement therapy campaign, but decided to turn it down. "I would like to be seen as someone In fact, the campaign must who can do something rather

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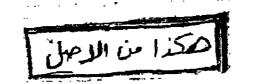
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with murder IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 4



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handle the responsit of having no friends" if failed according to Profe Graham Davey a chart NDELENDEN!\*

## BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

# Sex appeal? It's 'all down to smell

IT HAS been called the battle of BY GLENDA COOPER the sexes but now it seems women really do use "chemical warfare to trick men into although on the basis of sight believing that they are more attractive than they appear.

Female pheromones - airborne chemical messengers may have evolved so that they can block a man's ability to judge a woman's attractiveness on the way she looks and the sound of her voice, scientists told the British Psychological Society's London conference

But for women taking the contraceptive pill the biologists from the University of Vienna had bad news - the Pill blocks the production of these

affect behaviour and are often used by animals to attract mates, act as a love potion, at-

Social Affairs Correspondent

and sound alone he might not have been interested in her.

There are about 240 different pheromones but only 15 to 20 have as yet been tested. In this study, the scientists exposed a group of 66 young men unknowingly to synthetic vaginal pheromones called copulins. Their reactions to photographs of women and to female voices were compared with what happened when the pheromones were replaced with ordinary water.

When the men had been exposed to copulin they rated the voices and faces as more at-The chemical signals, which tractive. Crucially, it equalised previous differences. The less attractive the woman was rated before, the bigger the rise in her

the men had been given copulin. "The more negative a woman was rated in attractiveness without smell, the more she gained through smell," Prossor Karl Grammer said.

He added that the explanation was likely to be an evolutionary one. "[The pheromones] make all females equal," said Professor Grammer. "Women have learned to exploit men for their own advantage ... There is a lot of communication going on at a level we are not conscious of."

He also said that the amount of testosterone in the men's saliva increased after they had inhaled the pheromones. Merely by smelling the pheromones the men's ability to process information from their eyes and ears was altered.

Women also altered in the amount of pheromones they produced depending on the stage in their menstrual cycle, more elated and confident.

producing most as they approached their most fertile time

But the professor warned women who took the Pill, which inhibited copulin production: This could have a negative effect on your sexual life." Another study carried out at

the University of Northumbria found that when men and women were knowingly exposed to pheromones from the other sex and were shown a fictional description, they rated them as more sexually and physically attractive. Men were also more likely to see the female character as more likeable, but women did not see the male character as more likeable or even as more intelligent.

The presence of male pheromones made both women and men feel more energetic. omones made both sexes feel



Marilyn Monroe lookalikes competing to be selected to model for the new Madame Tussaud's wax portrait this week According to new research, however, beauty lies not in ther eye of the beholder, but in the nose Sinead Lynch/AFP

# Importance of what's ın a name

BEING CALLED Gillian or Arnos BY GLENDA COOPER rather than Stephen or Alison could make the difference between getting a 2:1 and a 2:2 at university, according to a study.

Dr Phil Erwin, of Nene University College, Northampton, has found that people with unattractive or unusual names do "significantly better" at university than those with normal monikers. The downside is that Ethels or Normans can be subiect to teasing for years and may 'crumble" under the ridicule.

In his study, Dr Erwin looked at examinations and coursehad completed the second year of a psychology degree at a British university as well as rat- Erwin. "It either toughens you ing the attractiveness of their anames. He said old fashioned names such as Harold, Norman, Amos, Gillian, Ethel and Pauline were seen as unattractive whereas the more modern Stephen, David, Lucy, Alison and Emma

are marked out as attractive. On average those with names rated as "unattractive" scored at least 3 per cent more. "It may not sound much but in degree classifications it can make the difference between a 📜 d and an average degree," said Dr Erwin. "It can make the them becoming an academic difference between a 2:1 and a achiever. "Fashions in names 2:3 or even a 2:1 and a first."

He said the names he looked at were more old-fashioned than

nconsistent when making decisions about bail, yet are highly confident that they have

made the correct decision.

In a study of more than 80

magistrates, only one-third

were consistent when presented with the same case twice, ac-

cording to research by Dr

Mandeep Dhami, a psychologist

Psychological Society's confer-

ence in London that magis-

trates from 44 courts were given

a set of 27 hypothetical cases and asked to make decisions over

bail for offences ranging from shoplifting, theft and grievous

bodily harm. They were also sent

duplicates of seven cases where

only the name was changed.

Dr Dhami told the British

at City University, London.

could be even more marked for someone with a truly outlandish name. "When people have a name that is unattractive it makes you stand out," said Dr Erwin. "It focuses at tention on you and people either crumble or do extremely well."

Children who have such names may often have to endure playground teasing and if they survive that they have worked out a survival mechanism for life. "Children are merciless about differences and if work marks for students who you are called Norman you are going to be at the receiving end of a lot of ribbing," said Dr

up or you become miserable." He added: "If you are asked out on a blind date with some-Stephen or Alison, you would be more likely to accept with the latter names.

The advantage of an unattractive name might also help in the job market, drawing you to the attention of an employer.

However, Dr Erwin said he would not advise parents to saddle their child with an unattractive name in the hopes of do change," he said. "The best thing is to give them two names and then they can decide which

showed inconsistency in at

least one if not more of the

cases, and the extent of their experience made no difference.

more punitively than women,

and magistrates were more

likely to be severe if told the po-

lice viewed the suspect with

Dr Dhami said the law need

ed to be made clearer. "Lay

magistrates only work 35 half

days a year. It is very difficult

for them to develop consistency." she said. "We need reform

and stricter guidelines so that they know on what basis to

hostility or the prosecution ar-

gued for harsh treatment.

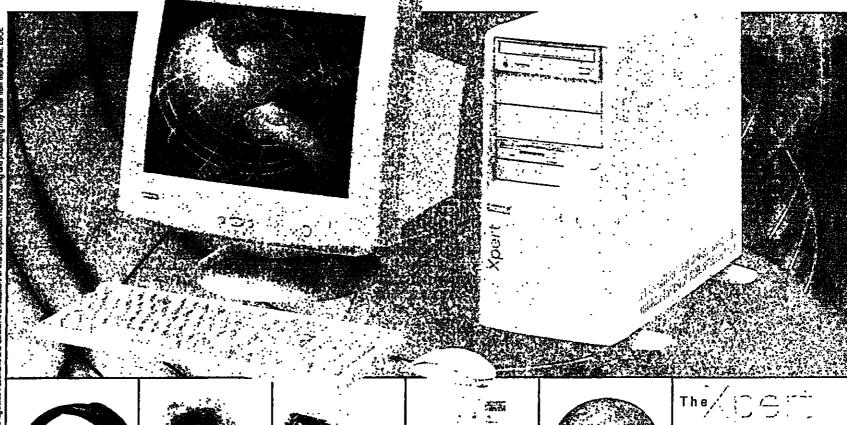
Men tended to be treated

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## Being a statue a worry for some

Magistrates' bail decisions erratic

MAGISTRATES ARE frequently By GLENDA COOPER

IF ASKED to imagine them- BY GLENDA COOPER selves as the Statue of Liberty. some people thought they would have such problems as being cold or being metal. But, a new study has found, people identified as chronic worriers felt that they "would not be up to being a symbol of the Unit-

Indeed, the worriers voiced ears of not only being unable handle the responsibility, out of "having no friends" if they failed, according to Professor Graham Davey, a chartered

psychologist at the University of Sussex, who undertook research into the psychology of worrying. Those more prone to worrying could also think up more reasons why they should worry, and became progres-

sively more anxious. "They also tended to couch their worries in terms of personal inadequacies." Profes-sor Davey said. "This tendency is an important contributor to the problem."

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# Thirty feared dead as Rome flats collapse

A FOUR-storey apartment block in Rome collapsed into a pile of dust and rubble early yesterday killing 16 people, and trapping more than 30 beneath the debris.

Rescue teams worked around the clock to locate survivors. In the afternoon there was a roar of applause as tearful rescue workers pulled out a middle-aged couple. Alberto Viola, who was conscious, had badly shattered legs but was out sob as the orange buildozers of danger. His wife, Luciana, underwent surgery for internal injuries and is in intensive care.

By late last night, hopes of fer dogs nosed the rubble. finding more survivors in what was the modest block in the are unclear. Initially a strong outer Rome suburb were fading. Emergency workers re- an explosion. But the fire sercovered 16 corpses including three children. One was just a few months old. Fifteen other people are unaccounted for.

Renzo Rinaldi, an eyewitness, said: "There was a dull boom. It was like a snowstorm, you couldn't see anything. When the huge cloud of dust cleared there was just a gaping hole where the building once stood. It was as thought the earth had opened and swallowed it up."

One of the first to arrive

By Frances Kennedy in Rome

matelli, whose family lived there. He, and neighbours in their pyjamas, began digging with their bare hands. Even after the lifeless bodies of his parents and two brothers were brought out Mr Fumatelli con-

Others could only stare and lifted off the concrete pillars and twisted metal. Firemen passed out buckets of debris and snif-

The causes of the collapse smell of gas fuelled reports of vice commander, Luigi Abate, said the smell was a consequence, not a cause, of the collapse. "If it had been an explosion, neighbouring buildings would have been damaged but they are intact,

Franco Barberi, undersecretary of Civil Protection, said: "From the small quantity of debris, it seems the building simply folded in on itself."

ical subsidence that might put other homes at risk.

The building dated from the 1950s when housing in Rome went up cheap and fast. Restructuring work was underway in part of the block. "This is a district where they have built illegally without proper planning permission or respect for safety," said an indignant elderly local. "And no one checks what the effect of this is on the

Local and central government have promised swift action. On visiting the scene Rosa Russo Jervolino, the Italian Interior Minister, described it as "an enormous tragedy". Francesco Rutelli, the Rome

Mayor, said: "If we find that behind this tragedy there is negligence those responsible should be punished severely." He added that that referred to private or public entities. The city council and Rome

including the windows," he said. magistrates have begun inquiries. The Pope was among those to express his condolences during his weekly audience and the Basilica of St John the Lateran is being made



Firefighters pulling out a survivor from the building that collapsed in the Italian capital Andrew Medichini/AP | came his Montreal home. (AP)

## Calvi's body dug up for tests

AS HIS son and a judge looked on, the body of Roberto Calvi was exhumed in Italy yesterday to determine whether his 1982 death was murder or suicide.

Prosecutors hope a new and fourth - examination of the body will shed light on the death of Calvi, whose corpse was found hanging from Blackfriars Bridge in London, following Italy's biggest post-war banking scandal Banco Ambrosiano, in which the Vatican bank held a significant stake, collapsed in 1982 when it could not collect \$1.4bn in loans made to companies in Latin America. Calvi, the bank's chairman was found dead days later.

Calvi's coffin was taken from the family tomb in Drezzo. sealed with lead and loaded on to a hearse for the trip to a morgue in Milan. Judge Otello Lupacchini said he was certain forensic medicine could determine the cause of death.

A businessman, Flavio Carboni, has been charged with conspiracy to commit homicide in connection with the case. Prosecutors asked for the exhumation after Mr Carboni's lawyers presented a report based on a preliminary examination of the body that indicated Calvi hanged himself.

What do I think of the exhumation? It was Carboni's right to seek it in his defence. For us, it's traumatic," said Calvi's son, Carlo Calvi, who



## Italian court sets **Kurd leader free**

THE LEADER of the Kurdistan By Frances Kennedy Workers Party, whom Turkey wants extradited from Italy as a terrorist, is now technically a free man.

In a ruling that looks likely to worsen the diplomatic crisis between Turkey and Italy, both of which are Nato allies, an appeals court in Rome ruled vesterday that restrictions on Abdullah Ocalan's movements were no longer justified.

The court reached its decision because Germany, which arrest warrant for the Kurdish leader, had decided not to ever, Mr Ocalan, whose pres- was to expel him. ence in Italy has brought

unlikely to be going far for now. His lawyers have confirmed

in Rome

fernetto, on the coast near Rome, where he has been under house arrest since he arrived here last month, Police guards told to stop him escaping will now have to protect him.

Italy's Prime Minister, Masdecision will inevitably speed up other decisions regarding Mr Ocalan's fate. He indicated there were two options open to 14-year fight for independence. had issued an international Italy that were "equally difficult". One was to have the PKK leader put on trial at a special request his extradition. How- court in Italy, while the other

relations between Ankara and political asylum, provoking the Rome to a modern low is wrath of Turkey and a Turkish embargo on imports from Italy. Turkey's ambassador in

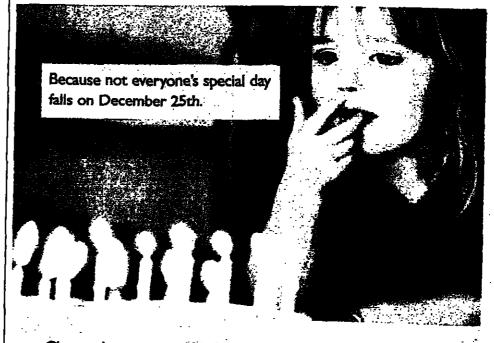
asked Italy's foreign ministry for an explanation of the appeal court's ruling.

In Ankara the Defence Minister, Ismet Sezgin, said that the ruling "will damage both Turkish-Italian relations and international law."

The Turkish government holds Mr Ocalan and the PKK simo D'Alema, said the court responsible for the deaths of more than 29,000 people, killed by Kurdish fighters and Turkish armed forces, in the Kurds'

Mr Ocalan has recently distanced himself from the guerrilla activities of the PKK and called on Europe to force Turkey to enter negotiations

Mr Ocalan has requested over Kurdish grievances. In an open letter to Mr. D'Alema, published by Land Repubblica newspaper, Mr. Ocalan said Rome would be the he will stay on at the villa at In- Rome, Inal Batu, yesterday ideal venue for peace talks.



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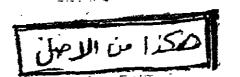
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# Netanyahu orders early elections The independent 1998 FOREIGN NEWS/ Thursday 17 December 1998 Netanyahu orders early elections Or tests, Benjamin netanyahu, the By Eric Silver in Jerusalem In Jer

day opted for early elections rather than face the disintegration of his right-wing coalition government, Israel radio reported vesterday. Polling could take place by the end of

Mr Netanyahu chose to go for broke following a day of intensive consultations after the cabinet endorsed his decision to freeze implementation of the Wye Agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

As a result, Israeli troops will not withdraw on schedule tomorrow from another 5 per cent of the Occupied Territories. Nor will Israel release Palestinian prisoners alleged to have Israeli "blood on their hands", an issue which brought Arab protesters back on the streets last week with stones, petrol bombs and flaming tyres.

Mr Netanyahu acknowledged 10 days ago that he no longer commanded a majority in the 120-member parliament, the Knesset. Voting on a no-confidence motion was put off until

opposition politicians were acting yesterday as if the countdown to the ballot box had already begun.

The Prime Minister had little or no chance of winning over hard-line dissidents, who had vowed to fight the Wye Agreement to the death. Nor was Israel's Labour opposition willing to give Mr Netanyahu a safety net, once it was clear that he was dragging his feet on the Palestinian peace deal.

Yaacov Neeman, the only non-party member of Mr Netanyahu's cabinet, told the Prime Minister he was resigning from the Finance Ministry and returning to his Tel Aviv law

At the same time, aides to the Defence Minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, were suggesting privately that the popular former general was about to break ranks and call for new elections as the only way to save the Wye Agreement. Likud insiders speculated that he might challenge Mr Netanyahu for the



Netanyahu: Underestimated resolve of ultra-nationalists

leadership. Mr Mordechai, the most dovish member of the inner security cabinet, distanced himself from the Prime Minister's stubborn insistence on Palestinian reciprocity during President Bill Clinton's three-day visit to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

The Defence Minister privately met the US mediator in the Middle East, Dennis Ross, on Tuesday to find a way out of the Wye impasse. Mr Mordechai shares the growing anxiety of Is-

hem and perhaps to war.

The chief of military intelligence, Major-General Amos Malka, predicted on Tuesday that Palestinian protests over the prisoner releases would not desist. Israel freed 250 last month, but most of them were petty criminals.

There is no certainty," General Malka told MPs, "that the leadership will be motivated to act against the street. The leadership knows how to ignite the masses, but it does not always know how to control them."

At Wye, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader seems to have underestimated the emotion generated by this issue when be left the choice of prisoners to Israel - just as Mr Netanyahu underestimated the determination of the ultra nationalists to bring him down, even if it might usher in a left-wing government that would yield even more to the

A bruising election campaign could paralyse the peace process for months. The Palestinians are in no mood to wait.



Palestinian women in Bethlehem demonstrating for the release of their relatives from Israeli jails

BBC Worldwide

## **Orphans** in Russia face mass abuse

RUSSIA'S STATE-RUN orphan- By MARCUS TANNER ages are subjecting tens of thousands of children to what it calls "an appalling level of buse", according to the group Human Rights Watch.

In a report published yesterday, the New York-based organisation says thousands of Russia's 200,000 orphaned or abandoned children are subjected to sexual and physical abuse by staff and older children, undergo hideous punishments, and are kept under a regime of strong sedatives.

The report's author, Kathleen Hunt, said the worst-off were the 30,000 children incarerated in homes for the disbled. Many, she said, were kept locked in dark rooms, tied down, straitiacketed, orsimply

left in their beds permanently. The report said that staff members encouraged abuse by older children, locked children in freezing rooms for days. and punished would-be runpsychiatric hospitals. Some usual practice.

children simply died of malnourishment, she said.

Ms Hunt insisted that not all staff she had encountered were unkind to children. "Some of the women looking after them do show compassion and concern," she said, "but they suffer from a lack of training."

She said the abysmal conditions described in the report were not simply the result of Russia's economic collapse, but reflected a prejudice against the mentally ill and the disabled.

Ms Hunt said almost half the 15,000 children released each year from the state orphanages end up homeless. Most of these drift into crime, alcoholism or drug addiction.

The organisation called on Russian officials to stop encouraging parents to surrender disabled children to the state, and urged that children's made them stand in the snow. mental states be diagnosed after extensive observation and aways by sending them to not in single sessions, as is the

#### IN BRIEF

Award for Kosovo Albanian chief THE EUROPEAN Parliament yesterday awarded its £10,000 Sakharov human rights prize to the leader of the Kosovo Albanians, Ibrahim Rugova, for his peaceful

opposition to Serbian rule. **Liechtenstein denies looting art** THE TINY principality of Liechtenstein rejected as false allegations made in an official Swiss report last week that

the Second World War. Peruvian pigs dine on in-flight food

its ruler, Prince Franz Josef, acquired Nazi-looted art in

PIGS IN Peru are being fed with left-overs smuggled illegally from planes landing at Lima's international airport. The law stipulates all airline refuse must be incinerated to stop disease.

#### DAVID LISTER



**We may love the arts in this** country but we don't seem terribly keen on artists

THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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# Nuclear row threatens German pact

GERMANY'S NEW coalition government was threatened with collapse yesterday, after Chancellor Gerhard Schröder scrapped Green plans to phase-

After a week of bickering, Mr Schröder yesterday ordered the Green Environment Minister, Jürgen Trittin, to stop work on his nuclear energy law, legislation that would have authorised the closure of Germany's 19 atomic plants.

Nuclear power is the central plank of the Greens' agenda. They entered Mr Schröder's government on the condition that the shutdown would begin in the present legislature, although the Social Democ-

rats thwarted attempts to insert closure dates into the voluminous "coalition agreement". As Mr Trittin acknowledged "there are differing interpre-

tations of the agreement". He has been hurriedly draftrent law which regulates nuclear power, details of which

have leaked out. Alarm bells rang out in the

spired that Mr Trittin's amend-Britain and France and if they were cancelled, it would make the industry liable to huge compensation claims.

At a meeting on Monday, to which Mr Trittin was not invited, Mr Schröder discussed the matter with leaders of the companies concerned.

The Chancellor reiterated that his government was seeking a consensus and he would only impose a legal solution if, after 12 months of discussions, no agreement was reached.

To Mr Trittin and his colwith some bitterness yesterday, leagues, that was not good enough. "This has been agreed in the coalition agreement," said the Greens' co-leader, ing an amendment to the cur- Gunda Rostel. "And we as a party expect the SPD to implement the coalition agree-

ment point by point." Even yesterday, after Mr industry and among its friends Schröder's decision was endorsed by the cabinet, made can take, nobody knows.

rats, Mr Trittin was sticking to his guns. The dispute must now be resolved by a special session of the two parties' leaders, to be held on 13 January.

The issue of nuclear power has always presented the biggest threat to the coalition and the Greens cannot be seen to cave in any further. Plans for an "ecology tax" have been watered down, and yesterday it emerged that the European Commission was casting a suspicious eye over the package.

The Green cause is not being helped by the presence in the government of a key member of the nuclear lobby. He is Werner Müller, the

Economics Minister, brought into the cabinet at the last minute after the defection of the businessman Jost Stollmann. Mr Muller does not belong to either party, but is a long-standing friend of the Chancellor

It is already clear that the word of Mr Müller, with no constituency of his own, carries greater weight than Mr Trittin's, whose party represents 6 per cent of the voters. How much more humiliation the Greens



Chinese wushu exponents performing with sword and sticks in a demonstration at the Asian Games yesterday in Bangkok Yoshikazu Tsuno



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## Coat firm called to heel over dog collars

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SOMEWHERE IN the United States there is a dog right now who is being driven crazy by the gifts his owners have put under the tree ready to be opened on Christmas Day. From one of the packages, a scent will be wafting that the pet just cannot ig-nore. It is not food that he smells, but himself. Or rather another of his species.

This will be one of the unwitting households that in re-Coat Factory, the largest retailer of coats in the land. The parkas are attractive because of the generous collar of fur. But there is problem. What the coat has is a dog collar, not be- made with dog fur. cause there is anything religious about it, but because of the origins of the fur.



stances of a product recall. (£54) parka from the Burlington ask for the return of some 380 parkas featuring these collars. was selling coats with coyote the coats, made in China, were

lion dogs and cats are killed each year for their fur. The practice is centred in Asia, but some of the products, ranging from coats to gloves and hats. go for export to markets where dog would not normally be considered an appropriate article

"Burlington Coat Factory, got duped," remarked Rick Swain of the Humane Society, but they're doing the right

Burlington could not be appalled when we heard about "said a company spokesman, The company had thought it Bernard Brodsky. The coats came to it via a vendor, Stanley fur. Now it has discovered that Nankin, based in El Paso in Texas. Mr Nankin also said he had been certain the collars were coyote. "I don't kra the company's notice this week where the fur comes from," he by the Humane Society of the insisted. "We asked for covote."

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# Icy wind snuffs 'Peking Spring'

BEHIND THE closed doors of a By Teresa Poole courtroom in the eastern city of Hangzhou, the Chinese government will today draw a firm ine under a year when freedom of political thought had appeared briefly to gain ground.

In the most high-profile case against a dissident for three years, Wang Youcai, a 32-yearold former student activist, will go on trial for allegedly "inciting the subversion of state

About 300 miles away in the city of Wuhan, his associate, 49year-old Qin Yongmin, will walk into another court to face simlar charges. After the optimism of a so-called "Peking Spring" has come the chill wind of a winter crackdown.

The two men will be found guilty - there has never been a non-guilty judgment in such a case - and will receive punitive jail terms for their attempts over six months to register the independent China Democracy Party.

Xu Wenli, the 55-year-old veteran dissident who was also arrested last month, has yet to be charged but may suffer the same fate. Almost three dozen other dissident figures have also been questioned or deined since the beginning of

Today's trials are a blunt reminder that, while the legal system is improving, it counts for nothing for dissidents such as Mr Wang and Mr Qin. A lawyer who wanted to defend Mr Wang has been harassed by police to such an extent that he has abandoned the attempt. Mr Qin's family were given only three days' notice of his trial. leaving them no time to try to erganise a defence. To prevent demonstrations

outside Mr Wang's trial, police in Hangzhou took seven local China Democracy Party members into custody on Tuesday and warned others not to travel to the city.

The response of the outside world has been muted. This year has been one of diplomatic triumph for China, when the leadership in Peking secured repeated praise from Western leaders for its response to the Asian financial crisis.

The dissidents' names are not unknown in Western capitals. It was at the start of President Bill Clinton's visit in June that Mr Wang and colleagues tried to register the China Democracy Party in Zhejiang province, and the American President spoke out publicly when he and other dissidents were detained for questioning.

In October, Tony Blair was embarrassed on his China trip when Mr Xu was taken in by police. The Prime Minister immediately raised the case with his hosts. On both occasions, the dissidents were swiftly released to avoid causing political difficulties at home for the foreign statesmen.

In the second half of the year, following the Clinton tour. China played host to more than half a dozen European leaders and the United Nations human rights chief, Mary Robinson.

During this period, dissidents were picked up for a few most were then released. There was regular contact across the country between





Hu Jiang-xia (top), the wife of Wang Youcai (bottom left) awaiting the trial of her husband and Qin Yongmin (centre) for attempting to register the China Democracy Party. Xu Wenli (right) is in jail but has yet to be charged

ordination which had not been seen since the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. News of their activities, and detentions, regularly reached the outside world, mainly through a Hong Kong-based human rights group.

But now the run of foreign visitors has come to an end and the goalposts have moved, as is demonstrated by the timing of the current crackdown.

Tomorrow, China officially celebrates the 20th anniversary of Deng Xiaoping's ecodays or a couple of weeks, but nomic reforms which rescued the country from the tragedy of the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. The government may be beset activists involved in the China by economic challenges, but it Democracy Party, the sort of co-can justifiably claim that those

policies have improved the living standards of the vast majority of its population. Yet by scheduling the trial of the two dissident for today, the rest of the world's attention will once again be diverted on to China's human rights shortcomings.

At the beginning of the year, it was all going to be so different. With President Jiang Zemin firmly ensconced after 1997's 15th Communist Party Congress, it seemed that there was more scope for political debate. Individual academics, journalists, and even the odd official started publishing papers and books addressing political reform. Intellectuals felt free to gather in informal discussion groups. There was talk of a "Peking Spring" ahead of the approach, they sought to call Clinton visit, and suggestions Peking's bluff.

that Mr Jiang was pondering the need for political reform. The Chinese President took the unprecedented step of taking part in a press conference with Mr Clinton which was broadcast live on Chinese Dissidents seized the mo-

ment, and became bolder, especially after China said it would sign the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (which it finally did in October). These activists decided to play on China's own, very public commitment to improve the rule of law, by seeking formally to register the China Democracy Party. By taking this legalistic

Western governments, now sold on "engagement" with China over human rights rather than confrontation, eagerly stepped up legal education projects. During the Blair visit, for instance, a mock trial was conducted to show the benefits of an open legal system. Countries fell over each other as they set up training courses of Chinese lawvers and legal officials. But none of this helps the plight of Mr Wang and Mr Qin.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, commenting on the crackdown against dissidents, last week declared: "This has nothing to do with human rights."

## Struggling for success in a dirty business

**FRONTLINE** HONG KONG

THE LITTLE Dutch boy putting his finger in the dyke trying to stop the floods has about as much chance as Mr Tse Chin-wah of holding back the avalanche of pollution in Hong Kong, which is making Britain's former colony an

Mr Tse, a senior environment protection official, is fighting against the odds and today we are standing at the most notorious part of the battleground in Causeway Bay, a popular shopping area in the centre of Hong Kong.

increasingly bad place to live.

Boxes on the side of the road monitor the air quality. They regularly report choking levels of pollution so bad that passers-by have to cover their faces in a vain attempt to fend off the muck that descends

from the skies. Hong Kong is simply too crowded. The city has the highest concentration of vehicles anywhere on earth and the buildings are so tightly packed that the air cannot circulate freely.

The government has been issuing daily bulletins giving the air pollution index since 1996. At the best times, Causeway Bay scores 60 points. This signifies that the air quality is not exactly bad but could produce illness over the long term. Generally, however, the score hovers just below 100 points. Above that, people with heart and respiratory problems are advised to keep well away. At worst. Causeway Bay hits the 160 point mark. Then it is a very

mpleasant place indeed. Causeway Bay also borders Victoria Harbour, famous for the extraordinary skyline surrounding it and junks floating past ocean-going liners. What the tourist pictures do not, and cannot, show is the colour and smell of the water. especially the waters in the Causeway Bay typhoon shelter, where floating gin palaces

nestle against wooden fishing vessels and rundown boats serve as home for old seafaring families.

In the company of David Wong and his Environmental Protection Department colleagues we bob up and down in a tiny sampan to get a bird's eye view of the polluted mess.

Although it does not look too bad, the smell tells another story. The storm drains on the edge of the harbour are supposed to be for rain water. But many waste disposal drains have been illegally linked up to them. Mr Wong's team of investigators are engaged in a time consuming task of identifying where the polluters are located.

The inspectors have some success. However, when we inspect an open sewer designed for storm water I see how difficult the task is. Suddenly the water pouring through the drain turns murky brown. Mr Wong declares that it must be coming from a nearby building site breaking the rules of water disposal. Mobile phones are quickly deployed to get an inspector on the job and find the culprit. It seems another case of putting sticking plasters over a gaping wound.

. Protests over the government's lack of enthusiasm for tackling pollution problems are mounting. But there are limits to what the authorities can do. Hong Kong is situated on the tip of China's industrial heartland. Airborne and waterborne pollution knows no boundaries.

Mr Tse looks up. Above him the sky turns into a murky glow as a heady mix of pollutants get together and descend over the territory. "I'm not saying it's not bad, but it's improving," says Mr

You have to be an optimist in his line of work. STEPHEN VINES



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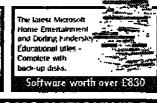
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# BUSINESS

### **BRIEFING**

#### Reuters launches £1bn bond

REUTERS, the information group, has signed a £1bn European Medium Term Note bond programme which will be listed on the London Stock Exchange. Reuters said the move was part of its plan to improve the efficiency of its capital structure. The bond will sit alongside the group's existing banking facilities.

A spokesman said the programme would give Reuters the flexibility to tap the medium-term public debt markets. Shares in Reuters closed up 37p at 577.5p.

#### Virgin loses Moscow route right



RICHARD BRANSON yesterday questioned the Government's commitment to airline competition after his airline, Virgin, lost the right to operate flights from London to Moscow. Rival airline British

Midland won an appeal against a UK Civil Aviation Authority decision to award Virgin a licence to fly on the route, which became available as part of an

Anglo-Russian agreement to break the current British Airways-Aeroflot duopoly.

Virgin said it planned to appeal against the Moscow decision to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister (pictured), who ordered the CAA to re-hear the licensing application following British Midland's appeal. This is the first time the Government has in effect over-ruled the CAA, and means that Virgin has lost three route applications in the last 12 months. Virgin lost the rights to fly to Las Vegas, US. and to Cape Town, South Africa, on both routes losing to BA. A decision is expected next week on the tussle between the two carriers to operate the new Shanghai route.

#### Go-Ahead on track in Sweden

GO-AHEAD GROUP, the bus and train operator, took its first step outside the United Kingdom yesterday when it won a £220m contract to operate commuter trains in Sweden. Go-Ahead, which operates London's Thameslink rail

service, won the five-year contract from the Stockholm transit authority after submitting a joint bid with VIA-GTL its French partner, and the Swedish private rail company

The deal signals Go-Ahead's determination to look for new expansion opportunities now that the UK bus and train franchises have largely been carved up.

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	Australia (S)	2.6110	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.27
	Austria (schillings	<u>1</u> 9.05	Netherlands (guilders)	3.055
I	Belgium (francs)	56.01	New Zealand (\$)	3.0916
ı	Canada (\$)	2.5353	Norway (krone)	12.76
ĺ	Cyprus (pounds)	0.8012	Portugal (escudos)	275.85
١	Denmark (krone)	10.39	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1531
I	Finland (markka)	8.2631	Singapore (S)	2.6614
Į	France (francs)	9.1033	Spain (pesetas)	230.36
I	Germany (marks)	2.7220	South Africa (rands)	9.7750
ł	Greece (drachma)	456.47	Sweden (krone)	13.21
Į	Hong Kong (ゔ)	12.69	Switzerland (francs)	2.2005
ĺ	Ireland (punts)	1.0906	Thailand (bahts)	56.40
l	Indian (rupees)	64,57	Turkey (lırasi)	496178
ļ	Israel (shekels)	6.4791	USA (S)	1.6492
I	Italy (lira)	2699		
I	Japan (yen)	191.67	Fates for managing purpo	ses outly

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Seerce, Thomas Cook

## RJB strikes £1bn coal deal with PowerGen

THE FUTURE of the British coal BY MICHAEL HARRISON industry was secured yesterday after RJB Mining, the country's biggest producer, signed a £1bn deal with PowerGen to supply 35 million tonnes of coal over the next five years.

Coming after earlier deals with National Power and Eastern, the two other big coal-fired generators, this agreement will RJB's 15 deep mines and its approvals for further gas-fired

9,000-strong workforce. Industry sources said, however, that RJB still needs to tie up additional top-up deals with National Power to avoid cutbacks at some of its collieries in York-

The deals with the generators follow the moratorium uarantee the future of most of imposed by the Government on

eaten away a large part of the market for coal.

RJB has contracts to supply the three generators with 81 million tonnes between now and March 2003. For each of the next three years it will supply the generators with about 21 million tonnes of coal, compared with the 26 million tonnes supplied in 1997-98, the last

year of the guaranteed con-

British Coal's privatisation. Shares in RJB climbed by

6 per cent to 71.5p as the City welcomed the news of the contracts, which are thought to have been priced at around £1.20 a gigajoule - 20 per cent below the price of the old con-

Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB, said: "This conunderpins

maintaining a diverse energy mix for power generation and is very good news for job secu-

Nick Baldwin, PowerGen's director of UK operations, said the deal with RJB had reduced its exposure to the risks of buying coal on the international market where supplies are less secure.

In addition to the 35 million

power stations, which have tracts agreed at the time of Government's objective of tonnes for PowerGen, RJB is supplying 28 million tonnes to Eastern between this year and 2003 and 18 million tonnes to National Power over the three years to 2001.

Over the past 12 months
RJB has reduced its production capacity with the closure of three pits - Asfordby, Bilsthorpe and Point of Ayr. Together the pits produced about 4 million tonnes a year.

# Mandelson gives £150m boost to entrepreneurs

BY MICHAEL HARRISON AND ANDREW GRICE

PETER MANDELSON yesterday unveiled his long-awaited blueprint for revitalising British business, announcing 75 initiatives to help build a "knowledge-driven economy including a £150m enterprise fund for start-up companies.

But the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry's White Paper on competitiveness was immediately attacked for containing nothing new and discriminating against traditional industries such as engineering.

In addition to the new Enterprise Fund, which will support the financing of small businesses with growth potential, there will also be an increase in the DTFs innovation budget, a refocusing of regional aid towards hi-tech schemes, measures to promote electronic commerce and greater commercial exploitation of scientific

Mr Mandelson also floated plans to review existing merger regulation, make it easier for failed entrepreneurs to start up in business again and reform the planning system to encourage the development of "clusters" of hi-tech industries. ister, Lord Sainsbury, will lead a team to promote industrial clusters in biotechnology

Unveiling his White Paper in the Commons, Mr Mandelson said it was a "wake up call to the nation". He said: "Our industrial performance still lags well behind the United States and our European partners, despite all the privatisations and trade union reforms of our predecessors' 18 years.'

The Blair Government would steer a new path between the planning of the 1960s and 1970s and the laissez-faire of the 1980s, which had both failed, said Mr Mandelson. It would work with the grain of markets;



Eye on industry: Mr Mandelson talking to workers at Harlow Sheet Metal in Harlow, Essex yesterday Brian Harris

use its regulatory powers to To begin with, the Science Min-promote competition; encourage businesses to collaborate more efficientlyand invest in skills and awareness.

> The Department of Trade and Industry would perform three key roles: invest in Britain's world-class science and knowledge base; do more to convert this into hard commercial success, and "lead a crusade to develop in Britain the spirit of enterprise, so characteristic of the US, so that we seize the new opportunities before us."

However, John Redwood, the Conservative trade spokesman, said the statement contained nothing because the

#### THE MAIN MEASURES

■ Enterprise Fund worth ■ Reform of regional aid to £150m to support start-up businesses.

■ Innovation budget increased by 20 per cent to ■ New Faraday Partnerships

to commercialise scientific research. ■ Ten new industry forums to promote best practice.

Government's policies on comnetitiveness had already been announced by Gordon Brown in last month's pre-Budget re-

"The Emperor has no clothes.

■ Lord Sainsbury to promote biotechnology clusters. A million small businesses wired to Internet by 2002. ■ Reviews of mergers regulation and skills programmes.

target hi-tech projects.

Reform of insolvency laws to help entrepreneurs who have gone bankrupt.

The Chancellor calls the shots. He's stolen the Trade Secretary's garments." port. He told Mr Mandelson:

David Chidgey, industry spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, said the White Paper

abandon existing engineering firms by focusing support on just the hi-tech growth sector.

Some MPs were worried that Mr Mandelson's plans to make it easier for bankrupt businessmen to start new firms would be a "cheat's charter".

Outlook, page 19

was "high on style and pretty

fine on ideals, but the key ques-tion is going to be, will it fall

The Confederation of British

Industry gave the White Paper

a broad welcome, saying it

would help provide the right

climate for business success.

But the Engineering Employ-

ers Federation, while support-

ing many of the initiatives.

urged Mr Mandelson not to

short on action?"

## Jobless totals rise for second month

By LEA PATERSON

UNEMPLOYMENT HAS risen for the second successive month, with manufacturing jobs falling at their fastest rate since the last recession, according to data released yesterday. Both key measures of un-

employment - the claimant count and the Government's preferred ILO measure - are now rising, raising pressure on the Monetary Policy Committee to cut UK interest rates again. Dharshini David at HSBC

Securities said: "These numbers should help to ease fears of wage pressures and should not impede the MPC from cutting base rates further."

The FTSE 100 index surged 73.3 points to close at 5,630.4 on hopes of cheaper money and on the back of Tuesday's rise on . Wall Street. Sterling closed little changed against the Ger-man mark at DM2.794.

According to the Office for National Statistics, the claimant count - the number of people claiming benefit - rose by 5,900 in November to 1.3 million. The wider ILO measure of unemployment rose by 16,000 in the three months to October

to 1.8 million. Manufacturing jobs fell 1 per cent in the three months to October, the sharpest fall since December 1993. There was further bad news for jobs in the sector yesterday as British Aerospace announced 300 job losses in Glasgow, and AssiDoman, a paper sack manufacturer,

90 jobs may go in Dundee. Despite the rise in jobless totals, employment levels continue to increase, said the ONS. The number of people in work reached a record 27.2 million in the three months to October. This partly reflects job creation in Britain's service sector. a trend illustrated yesterday by the announcement of 750 new jobs in York by CPP a creditcard protection company.

Most City economists believe the unemployment figures will worsen in the coming months and that job creation is services will slow. Unemployment is a so-called "lagging indicator" of activity - it takes time for falling consumer demand to hit jobs.

A new survey by UPS, the package delivery company, supported analysts gloomy predictions for jobs. According to UPS. British managers have cut back sharply on recruitment plans for 1999. Separate ONS figures show

that Government borrowing was lower than expected last month. Analysts believe the Treasury will record a healthy budget surplus next year, and Outlook, page 19 than expected in 1999.

## Standard enters after confidentiality breach | mortgage market

#### THE DEPUTY chairman of the BY SIMON DUKE "The board is satisfied that, Irish building products group, while Mr Brendan Murtagh Kingspan, resigned yesterday Hewetson shares had been purmay inadvertently have disafter admitting that he could chased by the wife of one of Mr closed confidential information have been responsible for "a Murtagh's sons, and by a close to his sons, he did not encourbreach of confidentiality" in friend of another son, after the age them to deal in Hewetson's the run-up to yesterday's an-It will undercut all the lead-

takeover of rival British group, Brendan Murtagh, a cofounder of the company, tendered his resignation after the company investigated circumstances surrounding certain recent dealings in the shares of Hewetson by persons connect-

nouncement of a £37m agreed

ed with Mr Murtagh. The company said that

Kingspan executive quits

companies signed a confidentalks in early November. After Mr Murtagh became

aware of the trades later in November he advised his sons to arrange for the sale of the shares. The board of Kingspan, who were informed of the trading on 10 December by company broker ABN Amro, reported the matter to the Takeover Panel and Stock Exchange.

shares, nor did he envisage that they would do so." Kingspan said yesterday.

about 8 per cent of the company, will continue as a marketing executive for Kingspan, but will no longer sit on the board. By close of trading yesterday, shares in Hewetson had risen by 5 per cent to 195p, while

Mr Murtagh, who owns first six months.

shares in Kingspan had gained 5p to close at 165p.

# STANDARD CHARTERED with 4 per cent of the market.

Bank, the banking arm of the Standard Life insurance company, is entering the mortgage market next month, writes Clifford German.

ing banks and building societies by offering variable rate loans at 6.8 per cent, with a further discount of 2 per cent for the

The new mortgage brand will be called Freestyle. Standard Chartered has set itself an ambitious target of lending more than £1bn in its first year, taking it straight into the leading 10 UK mortgage lenders

Freestyle will offer loans of up to 90 per cent of value. Mortgage offers will be based on an assessment of what borrowers can afford rather than fixed multiples of annual incomes.

Among other attractions, customers will be given a verbal decision on how much the bank will lend in a few minutes. There will be no arrangement fees or mortgage indemnity guarantee charges on large loans

The announcement will wrong-foot the major lenders that reduced their variable rate loans to 7.75 per cent last week. this should help the Government meet its fiscal rules, even if growth turns out to be lower

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

#### LONDON

BLUE CHIPS led the way, with Footsie up 73.3 points to 5,630.4 in active trading. Supporting shares managed modest headway.

Publisher Reed International led the charge on rumours that Microsoft might buy a stake in its 34p to 476p; it was 716p earlier this year. New tension over Iraq helped oil shares: BP rose 21p to 876.5p, although stories circulated that the US Federal Trade Commission wants more concessions before accepting the merger with Amoco.

NEW YORK

STOCKS FELL for the sixth session in seven, as Minnesota Mining became the 10th Dow member to issue a profit warning. In mid-afternoon trading the Dow bad fallen 0.7 per cent to 8,760.

Caterpillar, the construction equipment maker, also warned that profits would be down: its shares plunged 3 per cent. Internet companies continued to surge, with Amazon.Com gaining 19 per cent to a high of

\$289 after an influential analyst

said the shares could reach \$400

#### TOKYO

JAPANESE stocks rose for the first session in five days as electronics and other computer-related companies climbed on the back of Wall Street's rally. The benchmark Nikkei 225 index ended up 85.11 points, or 0.7 per cent at 14,096.3.

Sony led the way with a 2.2 per cent gain, while Hitachi soared 5 per cent. Bank stocks fell for a third successive day as investors continue to worry about the fate of their investments in the failed Nippon Credit Bank, which the government forcibly nationalised at the weekend.

#### HONG KONG

WITH MOST investors sitting on the sidelines awaiting news of President Clinton's impeachment and direction from Wall Street. the Hang Seng ended a shade lower at 9,939, down 0.1 per cent

on the day. Cheung Kong Holdings, Hong Kong's biggest property developer, rose 1.4 per cent on expectations that confidence would be restored to the real estate market as interest rates fall. Sun Hung Kai Properties. another developer, rose 2.3 per

#### SAO PAULO

BRAZII IAN stocks were sharply lower in early afternoon trading as dips on Wall Street and in Asia sent investors into a spin. By early afternoon the benchmark Bovespa index had fallen 7 per cent to 6,450. Traders said the market was deeply concerned at the uncertainty over President

Cardoso's budget and tax plans. The market has lost over 50 per cent of its value since the Russian financial crisis erupted earlier in the year. Telecom Brazil was yesterday's biggest loser, down 6 per cent on the day.

Derek Pain, page 23 1 by the end of next year.

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g Alesa amonte en rans da Minegame GDP growt heconomic environment beconsiderant tougher in I than in any year strong 1992. The deterioration in the mestic sconomic suttook or lelastiew months also mail the official Treasury foreca which put economic grov for new year as between 1 ] em and La per cent - look

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h Mr Weatherth Manufact food have a particularly boult 1999, and this will he and on effects effectives. Millenn

AffOrt ONE in three Britain's largest companies 1 already has a his har the mill heady been hit by the mill ing computer bug according to the annual report of a g veut Marchdoa

Many big businesses had that their computer n and incapable of plann next year

Halifax financial group so



# Business needs more than rhetoric

PETER MANDELSON asks us to put aside our cynicism and embrace his vision of the "knowledge-driven economy" with the same gusto that accompanied its unveiling in the House of Commons yesterday. The problem is we have been here before - with Lord Young a decade ago, with Michael Heseltine in the more recent past and just a month ago with the Chancellor, who appears to have stolen much of Mr Mandelson's thunder in his pre-Budget statement.

David Young turned the Department of Trade into the Department for Enterprise and Hezza invented a veritable cottage industry in competitiveness White Papers, benchmarking and all. Now they have transmogrified into the present Secretary of State, who has borrowed liberally from his two predecessors, stuck the word "digital" in front and made it sound all terribly sexy and New Labour.

The truth is that for all the Faraday Partnerships and Technology Champions schemes, there is precious little new money behind Mr Mandelson's initiatives (for which we should perhaps be thankful). Nor is there as much original thinking as nine different press releases and three separate reports would have



#### OUTLOOK

us believe. Some of the ideas are positively dangerous - such as easing the restrictions which prevent bankrupt businessmen jumping back into life. And some sound dangerously contradictory - like promoting competition as the main driver of modern, efficient markets on the one hand and then urging firms to collaborate on the other. Any businessman with a good idea that makes money is going to want to

keep the secret to himself. But on the whole the confection erved up yesterday is fairly harmless. Putting Lord Sainsbury in charge of the drive to create more biotechnology "clusters" (another of those Mandelsonisms) seems as good a way as any of keeping him out Mr Mandelson could be riding the although pretty much anathema to could rely on customer apathy and of trouble elsewhere.

But the best thing governments can do to encourage greater competitiveness is to stop interfering with the way business operates and, where ever possible, to deregulate, liberalise and reduce the burden of state inspired red tape.

Unfortunately, at the same time as Mr Mandelson is pledging to work with the grain of business, his government is tieing industry up in even more knots - the minimum wage, fairness at work legislation and now the stakeholder pension proposals. To be fair to Mr Mandelson, his ap-

oroach is as much about changing attitudes and changing culture, which, in Britain, remains ambivalent, if not hostile, towards entrepreneurship. Mr Mandelson is dead right to want to encourage a seachange in attitudes. The problem is that this is a process which takes decades, rather that one, or even two parliamentary lifetimes.

But maybe, just maybe, the times are indeed a changin'. A recent survey of youth attitudes showed that most aspired to be millionaires by their mid-thirties. If the entrepreneurial dam is about to break in a way that this finding suggests, then wave at just the right time.

## **UBS/CGIP**

THE DISCOUNT to net asset value that British investment trust shares have begun to trade at seems bad enough, but as this column pointed out yesterday, this apparent anomaly has got nothing on French industrial holding companies. As if on cue, Warburg Dillon Read yesterday forked out £300m to buy 10 per cent stakes in the interlinked Marine-Wendel and CGIP, presumably with the intention of helping to unlock some of the hidden value that lies within

The names mean nothing, but the sort of companies they are invested in do. All are top-drawer names. CGIP, for instance, owns 20 per cent of the IT services company . Cap Gemini and a similar percentage of Europe's top automotive components group, Valeo. CGIP is half owned by Marine-Wendel, which in turn is a half owned by Wendel-Participations, a family holding company

The French have a wonderful name for this type of capital structure; it is known as a cascade and

Anglo Saxon investors, it is common enough across the Continent.

These structures obviously have their advantages to those at the top of the cascade, but lower down it results in some quite staggering discounts - 36 per cent in CGIP's case and more than 40 per cent with Marine-Wendel. Fortunately, CGIP's chairman, Ernest-Antoine Seilliere, one of France's leading industrialists, seems as keen on correcting this position as his new City shareholders, so he might be prepared to work with

them in attempting to do so. Either way, as European capital markets converge, those clever City investment bankers seem to have discovered a new way of turning base metal into gold. Last year it was the euro-bond convergence play. Next year it looks like being these Continental holding companies. If enough people start recognising the value. realising it will in case become a self fulfiling prophesy.

#### Standard Life

ESTABLISHED BANKS and building societies must be starting to get seriously worried. In the past they

lack of competition to sustain their fat profit margins. On both counts, things are changing with a speed few could have anticipated.

Customer loyalty has already all but vanished; the only thing that holds customers to their established provider of financial services these days is the cost and inconvenience of moving. The new generation of low cost operators are now beginning to remove these road blocks too.

Having already made a splash with its new bank, Standard Life yesterday launched into the mortgage market with a target of taking 4 per cent of net new mortgages within a year. From a standing start, that would put Standard Life on a par in terms of new business with established mortgage providers such as the Woolwich and Abbey National

This would be a quite astonishing speed of entry into any market, let along that of mortgages. Certainly nothing like it has been seen in the mortgage market since the banks decided to bust the building society cartel in the early 1980s. In the end. however, the banks ended up charging the same as the building societies, so it was neither here nor there

This time round things look like being different. The initial Standard Life offering seems to be as competitive as anything else around - a floating rate of 4.8 per cent for the first six months, 6.8 per cent thereafter and no penalty clauses for chucking it in and remortgaging after a year. Fixed rate and cap & collar mortgages are promised for the future. Furthermore, Standard Life is prepared to approve a mortgage "in a matter of minutes" over the phone, taking the pain of remort-

gaging out of the process. The degree to which the new low cost operators, without the big branch networks of the banks and building societies to support, take market share from the established players seems to be limited only by their ability to cope with demand and provide the necessary capital back-

All of which will further increase the pressure on banks and building societies to address their bloated cost bases by merging. Perhaps the most surprising thing about all this, given the obvious threat to profits and margins, is that the merger process is taking so long to get under way. The Standard Life initiative cannot help but provide an extra spur.

News Analysis: The UK should escape outright reccession, but only just, experts predict

## Forecasts for 1999 are getting gloomier

IT'S DIFFICULT to find anyone By LEA PATERSON who is unbeat about the economic outlook next year. Independent forecasters have cut faced high interest rates and their estimates for growth yet also a strong exchange rate. gain, according to figures pub- The CBI survey [one of the light dyesterday by the Treasury, most respected surveys of manufacturing confidence] is siderably more gloomy than the predicting a situation at least as

Chancellor of the Exchequer. More downgrades are on the cards in the coming weeks. On Monday, for example, both the International Monetary Fund and the Centre for Economics and Business Research two of the non-City forecasters included in the Trea-- sury's most recent publication - are expected to cut their predicutes for growth. So just how bad will 1999 be?

lieve the UK will avoid recession next year, but only just. On average, independent experts expect gross domestic product (GDP) - the most generally accepted measure of economic growth - to increase by just 0.8 per cent next year. This compares with an expected growth rate for 1998 of 2.6 per cent.

So even if the UK manages to avoid a technical recession - that 's, at least two consecutive quarfragotive GDP growth dié economic environment will be considerably tougher in 1999 than in any year since 1992.

The deterioration in the domestic economic outlook over the last few months also makes the official Treasury forecasts - which put economic growth for next year at between 1 per cent and 1.5 per cent - look increasingly optimistic. Just 14 of the 44 independent forecasters surveyed by the Treasury expect growth to be 1 per cent or higher. Only two expect growth of 1.5 per cent or higher.

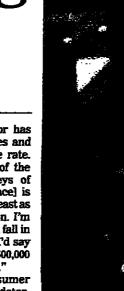
Among the most pessimistic quart Weatherby of WestLB . a inure. He expects the economy to contract by 0.5 per cent minority of forecasters are in 1999, the lowest forecast of any of the independents. According to Mr Weatherby, manufacturers will have a particularly difficult 1999, and this will have that the economy will shrink knock-on effects elsewhere.

He says: "The sector has bad as the last recession. I'm predicting a 3.5 per cent fall in manufacturing output. I'd say you could see 400,000 to 500,000 manufacturing jobs lost."

The fall-off in consumer spending will be a key determinant of the depth of the downturn, according to Mr Weatherby. He believes consumer spending will fall rapidly next year, and the economy Most forecasters still be- sion, before bouncing back towards the end of the year.

Nervous consumers and poor high street sales are also a factor in the decision of Doug McWilliams at the CEBR to cut his 1999 forecasts. According to the most recently published figures, the CEBR estimates the economy will grow by 0.7 per cent next year, in line with the industry average. But on Monday, the CEBR will issue new forecasts, and is expected to warn that the economy will slip into a recession - albeit a

mild one – in 1999.

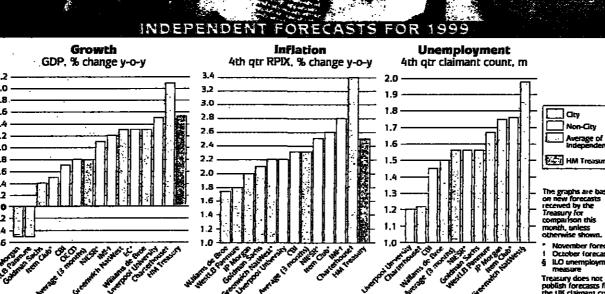


will experience a mild reces-

Weaker-than-expected consumer spending also lies behind the gloomy forecasts from Deutsche Bank and the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR). Mark Wall at Deutsche Bank is predicting no growth at all for next year, and fears that the economy could even contract in the last quarter of 1998, primarily because of the marked deterioration in consumer confidence. "The risks to our forecast are certainly on the downside", he says.

Despite the deterioration in the domestic economy, only a steeling themselves for a fullblown recession in the next few months. Just four of the 44 independents are predicting next year. Several believe that year 2000, according to Mr Dicks.





a "soft landing" - a relatively gentle slowdown in economic

growth - is still a possibility. Geoff Dicks at Greenwich NatWest is among the bulls. He predicts that the economy will grow by 1.3 per cent next year, in line with the more optimistic Treasury forecasts. According to Mr Dicks, the UK economy is set for a difficult six months, but recent cuts in interest rates - the Bank of England has cut rates by 1.25 percentage points in the last three months - should help ensure growth picks up again to-

wards the end of 1999. Inflation will dip below the Government's target next year, partly because of rate hikes earlier this year, but the recent monetary loosening should see inflation return to target in the

the economy will grow by 2.1 per cent next year, far more than expected by the Government, and only slightly weaker than the 1998 growth rate. According to Mr Jeffrey, the economic gloom and doom has been overdone, not least by

He says: "My feeling is that consumer spending will probably turn out to be stronger than other people are predicting. Consumer personal income is growing. We've never had as many people in employment as at the moment, and, on average, I don't think

that employment next year will be lower than this year." Mr Jeffrey believes recent

The most optimistic fore- falls in consumer confidence caster is Richard Jeffrey at are temporary, and were Charterhouse, who believes caused, at least in part, by gloomy newspaper headlines.

The flipside of his upbeat predictions for growth is stronger-than-expected inflation. He expects the underlying rate of inflation targeted by the Bank of England to hit 3.4 per cent by the end of next year. That compares with a consensus prediction of just 2.3 per cent, marginally below the Bank's 2.5 per cent target.

So recession in 1999 is still only an outside possibility, according to the independent experts, although most believe the risks are on the increase. What seems certain, though, is that 1999 will not be as easy as 1998, particularly for Britain's

## BT puts up £3m to keep Ionica on line

BRITISH TELECOM has come to the rescue of Ionica, its former rival, amid fears that the ailing telecoms company would suddenly collapse and leave 62,000 customers scrambling to find a new telephone supplier.

BT is putting up £3m to keep Ionica's network up and running until 28 February, when it will be switched off. In the meantime, BT will contact all Ionica's customers in an attempt to encourage them to switch to its network.

BT said it had put up the cash in order to ensure an "orderly transition" from Ionica to other telephone providers. "We wanted to avoid a sudden shutdown," a BT spokesman said. It would be a catastrophe fo us if 60,000 people were all trying to get a BT line at the

The deal is the final humiliation for Ionica, once thought to be best placed to mount a serious challenge BT in the residential telecoms market. The firm, founded by Nigel Playford and valued at £640m when it floated on the stock exchange in July 1997, was placed in administration in October after last-ditch attempts to mount a rescue collapsed.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, administrators to Ionica, have written to the group's customers to inform them of the deal. "In spite of significant risky customers who subseinterest shown by a number of parties in acquiring the business, regrettably I have been unable to conclude a sale," Neville Kahn, a partner at the firm, wrote in the letter.

By Peter Thal Larsen

telephone service to cease, and for you to be transferred to an alternative telephone supplier."

In return for its support, BT has been given access to Ionica's customer database and is planning to get in touch with all its customers. The company will offer them the standard charge of £9.99 for customers who want to reconnect to BT even if they have never been BT customers.

Cable operators will also be allowed to approach Ionica's customers in the areas they



Playford: founded Ionica and floated it in July 1997

cover. However, it is unclear whether the cable companies will make the effort. One of Ionica's many problems was that it signed up a large number of

quently defaulted on bills. The deal has the blessing of Oftel, the telecoms watchdog. David Edmonds, Oftel directorgeneral, said: "The deal announced today will ensure an "As a result, it will be nec- orderly transfer of customers to essary for your current Ionica another phone network."

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Hoare Govett Limited, which is regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority Limited, is acting for WT Foods plc and for no one else in connection with the Placing and Open Offer and will not be responsible to anyone other than WT Foods plc for providing the protections afforded to customers of Hoare Govett Limited or for affording advice in relation to the Placing and Open Offer.

## WT Foods plc Proposed acquisition of Noon Group plc

Placing and Open Offer of 56,456,948 ordinary shares of 25p each

**Hoare Govett Limited** 

and issue of 15,000,000 ordinary shares of 25p each as consideration, all at a price of 50p per share

Ordinary share capital immediately following the Placing and Open Offer Issued and fully paid Authorised Number

£38,027,432.75 152,109,731 £55,096,522.00 220,386,088 ordinary shares of 25p each WT Foods plc and the ordinary shares of 25p each in the Company are described in a document ("the Prospectus") dated 16 December 1998. The Prospectus has been prepared in accordance with the listing rules of the London Stock Exchange and has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for England

Copies of the Prospectus are available (on payment of a fee, for collection only) during normal business hours, up to and including 18 December 1998, from the Company Announcements Office. London Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP and (free of charge) during normal business hours, up to and including 30 December 1998, from the registered office of the Company at 2 Apex Point, Travellers Lane, Welham, Green, Hertfordshire AL97HF.

and Wales in accordance with Section 149 of the Financial Services Act 1986.

## Millennium bug is already causing problems

ABOUT ONE in three of BY BARRIE CLEMENT Britain's largest companies has already been hit by the millennium computer bug, according to the annual report of a government watchdog.

Many big businesses have ound that their computer netvorks are incapable of planning

evend next year.
If one recent case the lalifax financial group sent out letters to customers offer-

ing a new service which would last from 1999 to 1900 because the computer could not recog-

nise the year 2000. Other companies in the finance, manufacturing and utilities sectors have encountered problems in managing contracts, inventories and financial controls for the new millennium.

ment's Action 2000 campaign believe such difficulties will begin in earnest next 1 January, when information technology systems will be trying to plan a year ahead.

We hope the problems will be minimal. However it could serve to persuade companies that the millennium bug is not all IT hype," said Gwynneth the campaign group. Leaders of the Govern-

She warned that program- cope with the fact that commers at companies may have "fiddled" with systems, introducing additional problems which could be encountered next year.

With just over a year to go, Ms Flower estimates that between 350,000 and 400,000 small and medium-sized companies - many of them key suppliers precautions, some of them will Flower, managing director of to bigger businesses - have not still be affected by failures at yet taken adequate action to their suppliers.

puters may misinterpret the last two digits in the year 2000. "Many companies are still looking for a miracle solution.

There is no miracle solution,"

While nine out of ten companies employing 250 workers or more are taking adequate

she said.

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INDEPENDENT,

## BUSINESS/21

## Learning to live in a world of falling prices

IT HAS been a week where deflation has reached the UK. Among the main developed countries Britain has been towards the top end of the inflation range. But Monday's wholesale price index showing the price of goods falling faster than at any time for 40 years. and Tuesday's retail price index showing prices falling in key high street goods such as shoes, clothing and hi-fi. make it clear that Britain has joined the pack

One measure of global deflation which I had not come across until a few days ago is shown in the left-hand chart, produced by the New York bank, JP Morgan. The bank monitors 45 countries, noting what is happening to inflation. and records the number of those countries where the year-on-year rise in consumer prices is below 1 per cent.

Given the difficulties of allowing for quality improvement in products and particularly services, anything below 1 per cent is really stable prices. So we have gone from a situation eight years ago when there were one or two countries with near-zero inflation to 11 now.

Expect more next year. It is not yet appearing much in the official forecasts, but inflation in the countries participating in the euro, the so-called euro-11, may well be below 1 per cent next year. The latest annual producerprice figures for the US, the euro-11 and Japan are minus 0.7 per cent, minus 1.7 per cent and minus 2.9 per cent respectively. Expect these falls to move through into consumer prices in the months to come, particularly as the growth in demand weakens.

We have so little experience of price stability that it is very hard to adjust to it: only people with a memory of the 1930s are really able to comprehend how it might affect not only asset prices but also the conduct of husinesses. There is an immediate message of lower interest rates world-wide, which many people are now taking on board. But beyond that we have hardly begun to think about this new



MCRAE

It is possible to increase profits despite delivering ever-cheaper products but it is not easy

world. So here, in no particular order, are some of the areas where surprises might occur.

One very obvious one is in UK policy. The Bank of England is supposed to aim for an inflation target of 2.5 per cent, a target which it is now hitting. That may however appear completely out of line with the general level of world inflation. We obviously cannot have a rate of inflation which is far above that of other developed countries, and 2.5 per cent may be too high. Crunch time will come next year, if inflation in the US and the euro-

11 drops sharply. A second area of potential surprise could be the speed of decline in interest rates worldwide, and the ineffectiveness of rate cuts as a means of stimulating the economies concerned. The UK economy is very sensitive to changes in

short-term rates because much of our housing is financed by loans tied to these rates. But most economies are not. Home loans are generally at fixed rates and so are not directly affected by rate changes, while interest payments are a significant source of income for many retired examples of the Japanese phenomenon, where a cut in interest rates reduces demand many is an obvious candidate.

might go. The graph on the left, taken from The International Bank Credit Analyst. shows US bond yields since 1830. The interesting period is the one between 1870 and 1900, which roughly corresponds with what was, until the 1930s usurped the phrase, the great depression. It was a period of gently falling prices, and generally falling bond yields. But even at the end of that period, yields did not go below 3 per cent, as they did in the 1940s and early 1950s when there was some (albeit very modest) inflation.

So the question arises: what are the appropriate yields for long-dated US government stock in this deflationary world? Should the big number at the front be four, three or even two? UK long rates seem curiously low at the moment relative to US and German ones, but there is clearly scope for falls in rates elsewhere.

**DEFLATION TAKES HOLD** US bond yields 1830-1998, % Number of countries with sub 1% annual inflation headline consumer prices 1850 1900 1950 2000 1992 93 94 95 96 97 1998

The fourth area of surprise may turn out to be in the very different performance of companies in different parts of the commercial forest There are some chunks of

the economy where price destruction has yet to take hold. As we reported yesterday there are areas like personal people. So there may be other services, magazines and other subscriptions where prices have been going up by 6-7 per cent a year. By contrast oil and rather than increasing it. Ger- other fuel and audio-visual kit are down 16-17 per cent. If The third area of surprise these trends continue and, in may be how low bond yields addition, deflation becomes more general, we may have a situation where only companies providing services can charge more for their output. Companies making things will all end up charging less.

It is possible to increase profits despite delivering evercheaper products, but it is not easy. Expect companies whose output is intangible to continue to benefit relative to those whose output is tangible - at least until price destruction hits service companies too, as it has in mobile phones.

Area of surprise number five is the public sector. The public sector has been accustomed to being able to charge more for its output, using the general excuse of rising costs. For example we all expect the council tax to rise as part of general inflation. But if prices in general are stable. the excuse of rising costs becomes untenable. Expect profound pressure

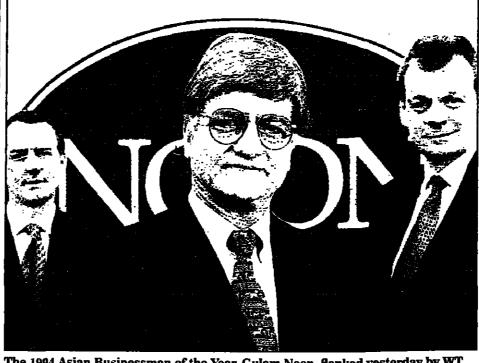
on the public sector, not just here, but throughout the developed world, to live within existing tax revenues. Indeed. if prices fall, indirect tax revenues will fall too. That is happening to general tax revenues in Japan, and could happen to European VAT revenues. I don't think governments have begun to think about the consequences of a world where they have to live with revenues that tend to fall each year, instead of rising.

They will, if the trend of the last few weeks does indeed take a sharp further downward

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The 1994 Asian Businessman of the Year, Gulam Noon, flanked yesterday by WT Foods' Rod Garland (left), finance director, and chief executive Keith Stott (right)

## **Curry king Noon** takes away £50m

AN INDIAN businessman who BY NIGEL COPE came to Britain in the 1970s has netted a £50m fortune after selling his chilled and frozen curries business to WT Foods, the ethnic food group.

Gulam Noon, 62, will receive £35m in cash from the deal, with the remainder payable in WT Food shares and loan notes.

Mr Noon set up Noon Group in Southall, west London, in 1987 after being disappointed with the standard of Indian foods available in supermarkets. The business grew rapidly

and it is now a major provider of ready-made Indian meals to top supermarket names such as Sainsbury's and Waitrose. Mr Noon, who will continue to run the business, said yesterday that he had no imme-

diate plans for the cash. "It's

Break For The Bo

Sibir Energy (I) WT Foods (I)

PhoneLink (I) Richmond Foods (SP)

Turnover (£)

9 11m (8 16m) 131 99m (128.9m) 3.649m (5.255m)

Associate City Editor

just numbers," he said. But he went on to add: "England is my adopted country and it has been very good to me. It has offered me a lot of opportunities, and I want to put something back. I want to establish

The businessman, born near Bombay, took over his family's confectionery business in the 1960s. He came to Britain in the 1970s and initially set up a sweets business before forming Noon Products in 1987. In the eight months to August the company generated profits of £1.74m on sales of £23.7m.

Mr Noon, who was named Year in 1994, said that he did

**COMPANY RESULTS** 

0.56p (0.45p) 10.3p (14 3p) -4.82p (2.47p)

-3 Op (-3.6p) 5 2p (7 Op)

Pre-tax (£)

5.282m (4 056m)

0.440m (0.343m) 11.55m (16.21m) -0.338m (0.281m)

-1 701m (-1.742m 1.33m (0.938m)

-0 014m (-0 767m) 2.26m (1 64m) -3 07m (0.078m)

not regret losing control of the company, and he had not considered a stock market flotation. "There is only so much you can do with a family business before you need to bring in additional professional management."

He disputed reports that he had criticised the City for some charitable foundations its attitude towards Asian entrepreneurs. "Asian businessmen should not be shy of taking advantage of the City. I have a lot of faith in it," Mr Noon said.

WT Foods is financing the deal with a placing and open offer priced at 50p per share to raise £25.9m. The remainder of the finance will come from bank facilities and loan notes.

Trading in WT Foods shares was suspended at 52.5p in Asian Businessman of the October pending the confirmation of the deal.

Pay day

tba 08.04.99

04 02.99

0 7p (0.7p) 9 5p (9 5p)

- (-) - (-) 0 5p (-)

0.75p (0.50p)

#### IN BRIEF

#### **Income rises** 19% at KPMG

KPMG, the accounting and consulting firm, shrugged off its failed merger talks with rival Ernst & Young to record a 19 per cent increase in gross fees. The jump, which follows similar strong performances from the other Big Five firms, took income to £867m. But distributable profit rose even more strongly – by 23 per cent to £179m. The average reward per partner also rose 19 per cent, to £305,000.

#### Biotech falls

SHARES in British Biotech dropped 15 per cent vesterday as the ailing biotechnology group cancelled a clinical trial to test marimastat on ovarian cancer patients. The shares dropped 5.25p to 30.25p despite British Biotech's insistence the decision was not connected to marimastat's safety or effectiveness in treating ovarian cancer, but based on the methodology of the study.

#### Chiroscience

Chiroscience, the biotechnology company, has won approval to market its Chirocaine local anaesthetic drug in Sweden, possibly triggering a wave of similar approvals across Europe. However, its launch may be delayed by the merger of Zeneca with Astra, which produces a rival drug. Zeneca had agreed to market Chirocaine but be forced to drop the drug in order to win approval for the merger.

#### Oil price jumps

CRUDE OIL yesterday posted its biggest gain in almost six months amid mounting tension in the Gulf. In London, benchmark January Brent crude rose by 76 cents to \$10.98 a barrel.

#### Fed sets limits

THE US Federal Reserve may limit bank lending to hedge funds in the wake of the near-collapse of the hedge fund Long Term Capital Management (LTCM). Patrick Parkinson, a Fed official, told US Congress: "Weakness in risk management practices need to be addressed. Private market discipline seems to have largely broken down".

## Digital Camera and Christmas **PC** offer with Nothing to Pay Guaranteed Christmas until the **Year 2000** Stores Open Discover the magic of digital Late Every Day caded into your PC. Ali 10 items for just nantoulated, incorporated into rour work, printed or e-maile In addition to the Digital Came his amazing Family PC Package ncludes a lop quality printer scanner, speech recognition buy now and pay nothing

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## Every week thousands choose BT. Last month, the FT did too.

Rank	Company	Country
1	General Electric	US
2	IBM	US
3	Hewlett Packard	US
4	Matsushita Electric Industrial	Japan
5=	BT	UK
5=	Emerson Electric	US
5=	Ericsson	Sweden
-8	Microsoft	US

Extract from "World's most respected companies." Financial Times 30th November 1998.

## No wonder thousands of businesses come back to BT every month.

A recent survey published in the Financial Times ranked BT as the fifth "Most Respected" Electrical/II/Telecoms company in the world.

PricewaterbouseCoopers conducted a survey of over 600 CEOs from 53 countries, and this was their verdict. We were the highest ranking UK company in the category as well as the

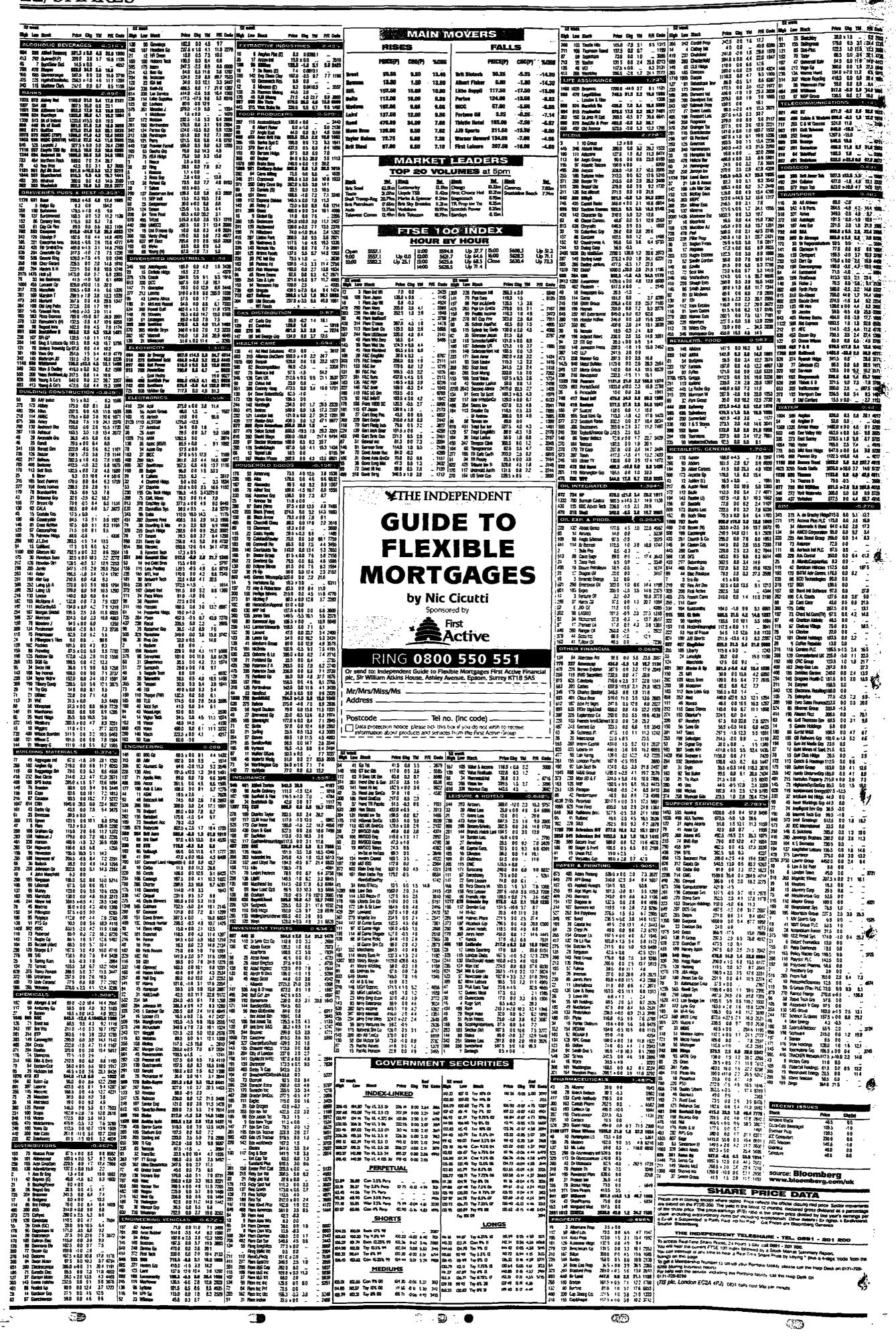
Not that such success should be cause for complacency. Our ambition is to go further still

We intend to make BT the most respected company in the world.

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حكدًا من الأحل

Investment
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holding

The current market va of this company is an arwhich will be corrected. The

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THE INDEP



# M&S at four-year low in retail gloom

MARKS & SPENCER tumbled to a near four-year low as high street gloom continued to ruffle the stock

The investment house Henderson Crosthwaite was responsible for the latest embarrassment to engulf the once high-flying retailer. It suggested like-for-like sales were running up to 10 per cent lower and slashed its year's profit forecast from £850m to £800m. Last year's profit was £1.18bn. The shares tumbled 5.75p to 390.25p with Seaq putting turnover at a not inconsiderable 11.25 million shares, most off

the computerised order book. Even before the Henderson onslaught, Marks had been subjected to a wide array of bearish rumours, ranging from shortages of certain lines to warehouses stuffed with unwanted goods. The retail chain's interim figures were bitterly disappointing, and the battle to run the group unedifying. The £1.8m share sales by Keith Oates, the unsuccessful leadership candidate. last week also unsettled sentiment.

Henderson's researchers, Roy Maconochie and Matthew Mc-Eachran, say Marks' food side has MARKET REPORT



been sluggish and its clothing sales very weak". They reckon the

shares could be a buy at around 350p. The Henderson men say Marks' problems have increased in the Christmas run-up. With 16 to 17 per cent of the clothing market, the retailer is set for a mammoth sale which, according to industry sources.

will not occur until after Christmas. Messrs Maconochie and Mc-Eachran believe the Marks sell-off will knock other retailers. "They are going to have to clear a lot of stock, which is going to hit everyone

Associate City Editor

cent on the same month last year.

Though sales had flattened in De-

"If we can carry on the way we

small-ticket." Lord Harris said that

while people might be avoiding

spending on cars and furniture,

shopping lists.

ing managing director.

some surplus lines back to its suppliers but they will respond by removing brand labels and returning the stock to cut-price retailers.

The fall-out from Marks' trading problems has prompted Henderson to lower other high street forecasts. Arcadia, which has already warned of a disappointing Christmas, is cut from £63m to £50m; Debenhams from £146m to £138m and Sears from £43m to £38m.

Footsie enjoyed a more confident session, reflecting New York's overnight strength, and closed 73.3 points higher at 5,630.4, encouraging supporting shares to edge forward.

Oils firmed as tension mounted over Iraq. At one time Lasmo was below 100p, the first time since 1986. with stories of a rights issue going the rounds. The shares ended 0.750 off at 101.5p.

Last month the oil group, which famously escaped the clutches of Enterprise Oil, said it was cutting 200 head office jobs in a bid to save £30m and keep the company viable in the current environment of low crude oil prices.

British Petroleum rose 21p to

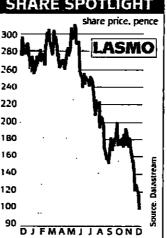
else," they say. Marks is able to send 876.5p, although its merger with Amoco could face delay as the US Federal Trade Commission was reported to be seeking additional concessions before approving the giant Anglo-American merger.

> TRICORDER TECHNOLOGY, developing 3D technology for digital cameras, held at 56.5p. Its bid to raise up to £3m at 50p through an open offer closes on Monday. 3i, with 13.97 per cent, is taking up its entitlement. The company has

been chosen as one of the European hi-tech groups to watch in a survey of venture capitalists and wealthy private investors. The shares were around 101p when they arrived on AIM in the summer.

Scottish & Southern Energy, the result of the Scottish Hydro-Electric-Southern Electric merger, started life at 681p, up 8.5p, with Dresdner we have not been approached," said Kleinwort Benson positive.

Allied Domecq. meeting analysts, rose 3.75p to 561.25p, and lisher, headed the Footsie leader



Racal Electronic, with the help of analytical talk and takeover chatter, put on 5p to 335.5p. The company described speculation about a bid from General Electric Co as unfounded. "We are not aware of any stake-building in Racal by GEC and

Reed International, the pub-

board with a 34p gain to 476p. Renewed suggestions that Microsoft was stake-building in Reed's Dutch partner, Elsevier, were responsible for the interest. Reuters was also firm, up 37p at 577.5p.

SKETCHLEY, which sold its retail dry cleaning operations and now concentrates on providing textile and cleaning services to corporate clients, is back in the takeover frame. There is talk that a German group is on the prowl. The shares edged ahead 1.5p to 38p; they were down to 26p in October. Sketchley, largely due to its retail side, has had a difficult

Tesco ignored the retail gloom. climbing 5.5p to 172.75p. A rash of analytical support was responsible, with HSBC and Warburg Dillon

time; its shares were around

Read among those upgrading. On the under-card, corporate action continued. Vision, develop-

ing electronic cameras, jumped 14.5p to 48p as bid talks started. The chemical group Brent International was up 9.5p to 80.5p, as a possible suitor hovered, and Zergo put on 21.5p to 365p after paying £33m for Baltimore Technologies, an information security group.

Hewetson, a building materials group, gained a further 10p to 195p as Kingspan produced a 200p-ashare (£37.1m) take over.

Delta. the electrical group. firmed 10p to 112p, reflecting its customary year-end investment meeting. But its comments caused a short-circuit at BICC. down 5.5p to 57p. Negative observations about the cable industry apparently did much of the damage. Selling by a US investor was another influence. A parcel of 2.9 million shares was eventually picked up by an institution at 51.5p. There was surprise that Wassali, a venture capital group which has been piling into BICC and now has 9.1 per cent, did not buy the unwanted shares.

**SEAQ VOLUME: 901.2 million** SEAQ TRADES: 66,251 GILT INDEX: 115.15 +0.01

Investment: Lord Harris says sales have been on an upward trend since August

## orders holding steady

BY SIMON DUKE

AGGERIDGE BRICK bucked the recent bearish trend in construction, as it said that commercial and export orders were still steady, in spite of shaky consumer confi-

Reporting a 29 per cent increase in full year pretax profit to £5.3 m. Peter Ward, chairman, said that buoyant commercial sales had ironed out earnings losses from strongest month, were up by 7.2 per housing starts, which were down 5 per cent across the country.

"Despite the general economic cember, he said the outlook was encertainty, forecasters are gen-coally predicting construction activity to be at similar levels in 1999, are, we will be very happy," he said. with increases in infrastructure and the commercial sector offset- ticket item retailers like furniture but

ting declines elsewhere," he added. our average spend is £150. We're Baggeridge, which derives roughly 50 per cent of its turnover from the commercial properties, recently won a contract to supply bricks for a new hospital in Norwich, funded by the Private Finance Initiative.

Martin Haines, the finance direcent, predicts that orders from investment projects will continue to grow next year.

He also expects government new housing requirement forecasts, due in January, to be much higher than previously believed. "with the underlying need for new housing in the UK forcing itself in the medium to long term."

Simon Larkin, an analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said that the results were "highly impressive", and that the company waş "extremely well managed." geridge's share price rose 0.5p to 79p on the back of today's announcement, and at current forecasts of £40m in pretax profits for 1999, it is valued at a forward p/e

"The current market valuation of this company is an anomaly, which will be corrected. They are already on a low rating, with potential bad news largely accounted for in the share price," Mr Larkin

## Baggeridge Brick sees Carpetright provides a ray every dog will of hope on the high street have his D Day

CARPETRIGHT, the carpet retailer run by Lord Harris of Peckham, offered Britain's embattled high streets some cause for optimism yesterday when it reported improving sales trends in recent months. Reporting a fall in half-year profits from £16.2m to £11.6m for the six months to October, Lord Harris said sales had been on an upward trend since August and that samestore sales in November, its

"People tend to lump us in with big- Lord Harris: "If we carry on the way we are, will be very happy'

its store opening programme and will only open a net two new stores in the second half.

Eight of the larger Carpet Depot carpets appeared to be higher on stores have been converted into Carpetright, though sales in the "We're first in a slump but we come out first too," said John Kitch-Depot stores are holding up better than in Carpetright. Margins have The upbeat statement prompted been maintained and the group has a 13.5p jump in Carpetright's shares returned to its policy of promotional discounting after abandoning its to 219.5p. Lord Harris said Carpetright was taking market share from failed experiment with its lowestrivals and its share of the declining price guarantee. "We're a discounter UK carpet market stood at around and we have to accept that," Lord 13 per cent. But it has cut back on Harris said.

## **CARPETRIGHT: AT A GLANCE** Pre-tax profits (£m) 26.0 14.3 Sales by trading format Share price Carpetright

Analysts added a note of caution, however, saying that much of Carpetright's gains had come from the one-off benefit of Allied Carpets' recent decision to pull out of the market for roll-stock carpet, which

customers can take home on the day. They said this flattered Carpetright's figures and the underlying picture might not be so promising. John Richards at BT Alex.Brown said: "It is not that the market has turned. They are doing well at the moment because they are killing Allied Carnets."

The company claims costs are back under control and a target margin of 15 per cent looks achievable. After 10 years of opening a store every 10 days the group is now concentrating on its existing stores, which will improve focus in a difficult year ahead.

BT Alex.Brown is forecasting fullyear profits of £27.5m, putting the shares on a forward multiple of less than nine. "I'm neutral on the stock. It will be a tough year, though at least Carpetright is the dominant player in a specific sector of the market."

# Breuer tells how

ROLF BREUER, Deutsche Bank's chairman, ruffled a few feathers a fortnight ago when he said that staff to be kept on following the merger with Bankers Trust would be selected on the basis of "Best of Breed".

This prompted some wags among the London-based employees of the two banks to wonder whether they should sport "Best of Breed" badges in true Cruft's style.

Now Herr Breuer has dubbed the day the merger will reach completion as "D Day". Obviously he has a more finely developed sense of humour than most Germans are given credit for.

THE ACQUISITION by Citigate of fellow City spin doctors Dewe Rogerson a couple of months ago has not been all sweetness and light, I am afraid to say. First there was unhappiness among some former Citgate managers that their new Dewe colleagues were getting paid a fatter bonus following the deal.

Now the two sets of staff are holding separate Christmas parties. The Citigate people held their knees-up last week at the Bleeding Heart. a popular restaurant in Hatton Garden. Their Dewe Rogerson colleagues will party the night away in South Kensington tonight at, appropriately enough, the Natural History Museum.

WHEN YOU are 33, a bachelor, and have a reputed personal fortune of £3bn putting you at number 70 in the Forbes magazine list of the world's 1978. richest people, you can afford to have

a cruise on your 200-foot motor yacht in the Caribbean might be good enough for most, but Ernesto Bertarelli, Italian-born and living in Switzerland, has for some time enjoyed roaring around Lake Geneva on his 40-foot racing trimaran, Al-

Now he has allocated a few millions to buying a fleet of eight, nearly identical 80-foot yachts and underwriting a World Championship circuit which takes them around northern Europe next summer and back to the Mediterranean in the

autumn. Mr Bertarelli has used his own

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS BY JOHN WILLCOCK

money to pay for the enterprise and intends to race himself. He made his pile from his company Ares-Serono, a pioneer of fertility drugs and treatments for multiple sclerosis, among other things.

It sounds a daring enterprise for one so commercially valuable to his 4,000 employees, but bravery seems to be his hallmark. His spokesman, a Swiss Frenchman called Nicolas de Saussure, turned up yesterday in Marseilles - the home of the French national anthem and part of the region which assisted with the building of the yachts at nearby La Ciotat - and announced at the launch of his master's yachting enterprise: "The presentation . will take place in English, so that everyone understands well."

BACK IN the good old days, the lifestyle of a geologist for an oil company very much resembled that of Indiana Jones, scouting for the black gold around the more far-flung and exotic parts of the globe. Now the job is mostly done "from offices and oil rigs", according to Richard Haythornthwaite, who started his career as a geologist with BP in

Since then Mr Haythornthwaite, who celebrates his 42nd birthday Taking your Miss UK girlfriend on today, has risen to hold several key management posts at BP, Premier Oil and latterly Blue Circle Industries (BCI). Yesterday he was named group chief executive of BCI, to succeed Keith Orrell-Jones when the latter leaves next July. Mr Haythornthwaite's other

great love is modern art. He has advised Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, on marketing strategies and is currently a trustee of the Whitechapel Art Gallery.

People and Business' welcomes any contributions. Please send your e-mails to indybusiness@indepen-

## housing in the UK forcing itself through to the construction sector in the medium to long term." Zergo becomes a leader in Net commerce

ZERGO IS too small to register on BY PETER THAL LARSEN most investors' radar screens, but the Basingstoke-based software from the giants of the computer

industry. Yesterday Intel, the giant US chip maker, snapped up a 6.3 per cent stake in Zergo. The move came as Zergo unveiled the acquisition of its nearest rival, the Irish group Baltimore, for a mixture of cash and shares worth £35m.

The deal creates the world's second-largest supplier of software that allows people to make carry out transactions on the Internet. This

market is expected to explode in the firm is attracting plenty of attention next 18 months as electronic commerce takes off in both the United States and Europe.

"This makes us indisputably number one in Europe and Asia and number two in the US," said Henry Beker, Zergo chairman and chief executive. "It makes us a real contender for global leadership."

Zergo has traditionally concentrated on providing large security projects for banks and government departments. But Baltimore is one of two leading firms providing Pub-

3.50% Discount

... Spain 5.25% 10-d Repo 3.00%

the systems that allow people to trade securely on the Net

Baltimore already counts large organisations such as the Irish government, the British Post Office and Deutsche Bank among its customers. The deal with Zergo will allow it to target the US market where Entrust, its main rival, has established a lead.

At the moment the market is still tiny. Baltimore's revenues were about £1.6m last year, while Zergo yesterday reported a pre-tax loss of £3.1m on turnover of £7.7m in the six takes off, the shares will prove to be months to the end of October. How

lic Key Infrastructure technology - ever, the growth is explosive: Baltimore's sales are expected to treble this year.

"In order to conduct electronic business you need to create an element of trust," said Michael Wand, a software analyst at Paribas, the investment bank.

Zergo shares jumped 21.5p to 364p yesterday, valuing the company at £66m. Given that Zergo is not expected to turn a profit for a while, that valuation may look pricey. But analysts argue that if it can maintain its lead as electronic commerce

		FOREIG	N EXCH	ANGE	RATES		
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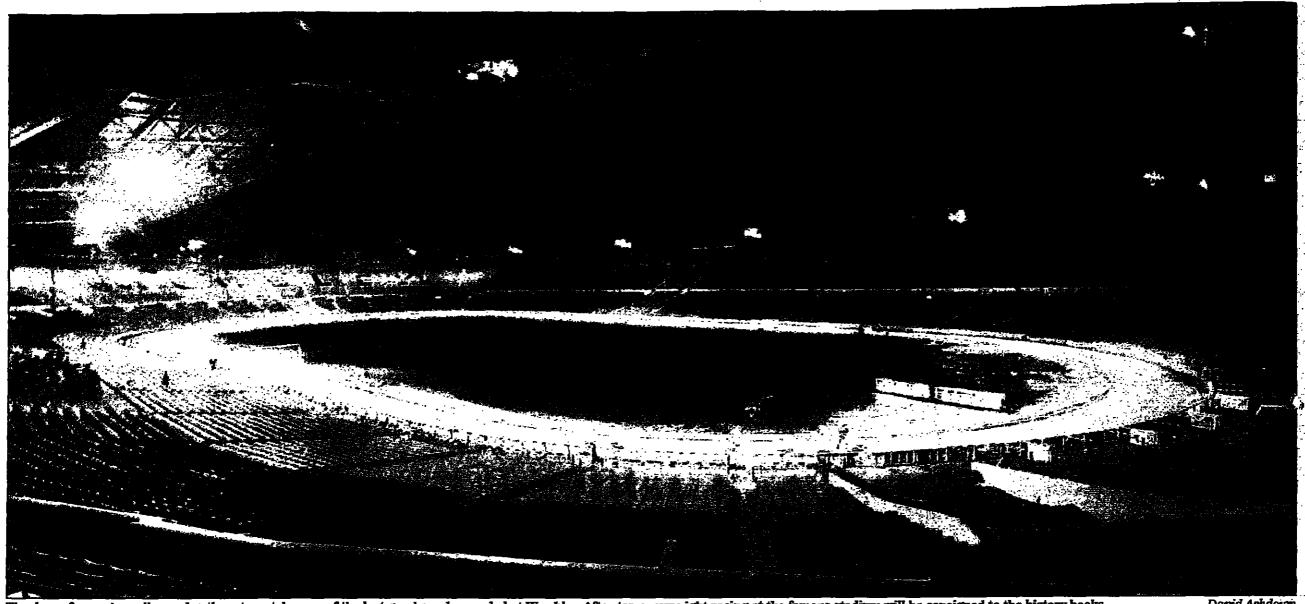
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# SPORT

Greyhound racing: The curtain comes down at Wembley on a tradition unable to compete with pop and premiere



The dogs of yore: A small crowd gathers to watch some of the last greyhounds paraded at Wembley. After tomorrow night racing at the famous stadium will be consigned to the history books

David Ashdown

# Hounded out after a 71-year run

AT WEMBLEY on Tuesday night the stretch limos and smokewindowed Voyagers lined the kerb, giant searchlights fingered the cloud base, and the queues were winding round the block. The Manic Street Preachers had filled all 12,000 seats at the Arena. Around the corner, at the entrance to Exhibition Hall 2, the black-tie mob were arriving for the VIP pre-, site to the BBC. miere of Titanic: The Official Movie Tour. And a hundred yards away, across a stretch of puddled concrete, six brightly vested dogs hurtled round a track in front of a few hundred people in a stadium designed for 70,000, and you might have been forgiven for assuming that a sport was dying and an old way of life along with it.

Greyhound racing came to Wembley Stadium on 10 December, 1927, only a few months after Manchester's Belle Vue had opened its doors as Britain's first dog track. Wembley was already in financial difficulties, despite having hosted its first FA Cup final in 1923 and welcomed vast throngs to the British Empire Exhibition of 1924-25. The arrival of the dogs provided such a boost to its fortunes that grevhound owners were thereafter granted a fistful of Cup final tickets every year in recognition of their role in keeping the place open. But tomorrow night the last of the twice-weekly meetings takes place at Wembley, putting an end to 71 years of tradition.

The announcement was made three months ago by the Greyhound Racing Association, which sounds to the uninitiated like a governing body but is actually a limited company responsible for promoting meetings at half a dozen venues around the country, from a base at the Wimbledon track. The GRA put on that first meeting at Belle Vue; more re-

RICHARD Williams

cently it was behind the closure in the mid-Eighties of Harringay and Slough, and the sale of the historic White City

exacerbated by the forthcoming Football Association and the Sports Council, whose part-National Stadium Trust, has no

At Tuesday's penultimate

Tuesday a mere five were operating, standing on battered wooden boxes beneath boards proclaiming their identities, on stretch of terracing from which a dozen rows of plastic seating had been removed, just along from the maroon upholstery of the Royal Box.

along the back straight. On

Dog racing at Wembley was in its golden age when Doug Wright first worked at the track Wembley operation was based for his uncle Cyril, whose sign on the usual economic factors, will appear for the last time tomorrow night. It was 1952, and purchase of the stadium by the Doug wasn't yet in his teens. "I was on the bag at 12 and tick-tacking at 14," he told me as he nership, known as the English took a fat roll of twenties from a dark-haired young man in a plans to incorporate a dog track scuffed suede jacket. He opened out the notes and put

Seventies, in line with the general reduction in the sport's ap-A revival in the late Eighties

begun to decline by the early

produced Wembley's last leg-Ballyregan Bob over two laps, and bowed the knee before a vast crowd drawn by the think it was injured that night," White said of the loser, wryly exploring a painful memory, "and what I mean. But the atmosphere was like the Cup final."

Joe Simmons was running a book that night, as his father had done for 50 years before ball tournaments and pop them carefully into his open him, but he was among those concerts often forcing the can-

Mike Raper, the GRA's op- for a puppy or £1,000 and up for erations director, believes that an older dog with promise, and the problem was not the sport invest training fees of around £5 but Wembley itself. "Apart from a day. At Wembley on Tuesday the restaurant, you're on open terracing," he said. "And people today don't want to be stuck out in the cold. The business ley has been left behind. We've to wash its face, a dog must run been promoting a special offer four times a month, and win one prospect of a showdown. "I at our tracks-groups of 10 peo- race in four. The animal's racple or more pay a tenner each ing life begins at 15 months and and get admission, a racecard, two drinks, scampi or chicken a few people seemed to know in a basket, a free bet, and a about it. There was a lot of peo- readmission voucher to anothple on the other one, if you know er meeting. But people still want decent surroundings." Others pointed to the disruption caused by Wembley's calendar of other events, with foot-

can last, granted freedom from broken hocks and other hazards, for three years. Sitting in the bar behind the grandstand, Jill Tester watched the closed-circuit TV and waited for her husband Ken to lead Buddys Zula out for the seventh race. Ken and Jill Tester and their two sons train 40 dogs for seven owners at kennels near Gatwick airport and have been bringing dogs to Wembley since the GRA closed Sittingbourne, their previous base, three years ago Gt has since reopened under different ownership). Now they consider themselves fortunate to have been relocated to Catford, another GRA

track. "Some people haven't been so lucky," Mrs Tester said. Wembley, she said, was "a nice galloping track", meaning that its long straights gave the dogs a chance to stretch their legs. "If you've got an early-pace

dog, it's a good place.' Out on the terrace a trumpet fanfare warned that there were five minutes to go, producing a flurry of activity in front of the little row of bookmakers' stalls. In the bar, amid the display cases containing the relics of World Cups and Papal visits, the space devoted to greyhound racing contained a small printed card. "We regret," it said, "that this exhibit is temporar ily unavailable for display." And after tomorrow, the only dog at Wembley will be the ghost of Baliyregan Bob.

night, the prize-money for the graded races ran from £40 to

A dog handler parades one of the entrants under illuminated sign welcoming racegoers to the meeting

'After the war there was speedway, cinema and the greyhounds. People were were happy just to be alive and no one had television'

of size that has become the his clerk to record that five hunnorm in recent years. "Hello, everyone, and welcome to Wembley Stadium," a voice boomed over the public address system, but the announcer could have saved money by standing on a chair and shouting.

High up in the glass box used by radio commentators at football matches, the rites of corporate hospitality were taking place. Under the stand, punters queued up at the Tote windows or sat and studied form over a beer in a vast and underpopulated bar, surrounded by drab display cases containing dusty relics of the stadium's

Once upon a time as many as 60 bookmakers would set up their pitches in a double row Leger, but its fortunes had to go out any more."

meeting the crowd was the sort leather bag before instructing who found themselves out of cellation of greyhound meetdred quid had just been placed on the favourite, at 2-1 on.

"After the war there was speedway, the cinema and the greyhounds," he said, tightening the belt on his check raincoat before turning to his blackboard and adjusting the favourite's price to 9-4 on. "People were happy just to be alive, and no one had television." A couple of boys in black quilted anoraks and varmulkas came up and studied his board, comparing the odds with the form guides they carried.

"Wembley was the most prestigious track all the way through the Forties. Fifties and Sixties," he continued "All the best trainers came here." It was the home of the Greyhound St

work a few years later when the promoters halved the number of bookies, having prepared the way by instituting a system of three-month contracts. "I got the short straw," he said. "I thought about making a court case of it, but they'd got it all sewn up."

The mood on Tuesday was similarly gloomy, particularly among the six full-time track workers who will find themselves redundant tomorrow night. Cyril Wright was not alone in blaming the decline in attendance on the amount of sport available on TV. "People watch the horse racing in the afternoon, and they put a few bob on, and if they lose that, they stay at home in the evening. They can't be bothered

GRA recently announced the acquisition of the Oxford track, giving it control of six of the 32 tracks currently operating under rules laid down by the Na-

After the sport reached rock

bottom in terms of racetrack at-

tendances 18 months ago, late-

ly there have been signs of a

mini-revival. Last winter Sky

transmitted two meetings, and

will be back for two more from

Wimbledon in January, with a

contract for a further 14 cur-

rently under discussion. The

tional Greyhound Racing Club. For the individual participants, greyhound racing is hardly a path to riches. Each track has nine or 10 designated trainers, who provide dogs for what are called graded races. Owners pay around £350

## Administrative bungling is a tradition at the FA

A PERSONAL favourite among numerous scornful tales about officers of the Football Association concerns a quarrel over gifts following an international match in Turkey. To the astonishment of their

hosts, three of four committee men chased the other to his hotel room, demanding aggressively the return of a coffee set that had been erroneously presented.

It is not the intention here to make light of a matter that has brought about Graham Kelly's resignation and will make it difficult for Keith Wiseman to remain as chairman, but an impression long held about the FA is one of dedi- pressed for privilege in the ex-

Things may be better than they were, maybe not, but this latest episode, one that may have put paid to England's hopes of staging the World Cup finals in 2006, fits a history of administrative bungling.

Take, for example, the error in accountancy that caused £500,000 of profits from the 1966 World Cup finals to be lost in taxes when England's victorious squad shared only a £22,000 bonus. Take also the effect of pedestrian development and arrogant presumption.

The trouble is of the FA's coaching. own making. Alone, it has

pansion of European club football. With the pragmatic support of New Labour it has shamefully reneged on a deal, reached with Germany by its past chairman, Bert Millichip, for England to have Euro 96 in

exchange for the 2006 World

Cup.
Let us go back a bit. When Sir Stanley Rous became Fifa president in 1963 the obvious candidate to succeed him as FA secretary was Walter Winterbottom, who had stepped down from managing the England team and as director of

Winterbottom, an academ-



KEN JONES

ic who was held in great respect internationally, would have been ideal. Instead, the FA Council, doubtless fearing an extension of Rous's autocratic influence, chose Denis

Follows, thus denying English football the benefit of Winter-

One name leads to another. "If one of our senior officials has a friend there with whom his wife can stay for nothing, I would think it possible." Alf Ramsey once said when asked about the possibility of England playing in north Africa.

Recriminations that did for Ramsey after England's failure to qualify for the 1974 World Cup finals were brutally consistent with the antagonism he aroused at Lancaster Gate after causing the selection committee to be dismantled. "I suppose I'd better inform those er, that would have been the

people," he said typically one day in the west of Scotland, making off towards a group of During his term as FA secpowerless senior officials with

had picked A later candidate for the post of England manager quickly realised that it had been a mistake to let his name go forward. "Everything I'd heard about the FA, and worse,

belated word of the team he

was true," he said. Nothing quite so outrageous as the suppressed charge of sexual harrassment that was laid gainst a leading FA official, long dead, by an airline stewardess. "If it had been a play-

end of him," the England manager of that time said.

retary, the late Ted Croker took exception to an article I had written for the Uefa bulletin suggesting that a strong case could be be made against the historical separation of British football. "If I'd known about the article beforehand, I would have tried to prevent its publication," he said.

Seeing things suddenly in a different light is not an un-familar experience to me personally, but from then on I paid much more attention to what people in other countries felt about the administrators of

English football. Unsuprisingly, the general consensus was that, while most were honourable men, few were up with

the pace of progress. It is anybody's guess how things will shape up at Lancaster Gate, but we can be pretty sure that a gang was waiting at the gulch for Kelly and Wiseman. If the FA remains consistent in one thing,

it is factional malevolence. Not much sympathy can be held out for Kelly, none for the crassly ambitious Wiseman But we are not talking scandal here, just the gormless behaviour for which the FA is

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# England unable to find answers

IF IT was intended as a diversion from the misery so far experienced in Australia, the naming of England's 16-man one-day squad for the Cariton United Breweries series, despite two new names and the removal of some old ones, did nothing to lift the stygian gloom. One-day cricket may be an important aspect of the game, but success at it is like enjoying a fizzy can of pop as compared to vintage Krug - the inbles may be there but the omplexity and depth are not.

#### was still prevalent as the team ENGLAND ONE-DAY SQUAD

The sense of despondency

England's party of 16 for next month's one-day series against Austrolia and Srl Lanko

- M W Alleyne (Gloucestershire) J P Crawley (Lancashire) R D B Croft (Glamorgan)
- N H Fairbrother (Lançashire A F Giles (Warwickshire) D Gough (Yorkshire) D W Headley (Kent) G A Hick (Worcester)
- A H Hollloake (Surrey) P<sub>i</sub> C Hollioake (Surrev) Hussain (Essex) V Knight (Warwickshire) Muilally (Lektestershire) V J Wells (Leicestershire)

flew to Canberra, a journey that required two flights and, when timed from door to door, took nearly seven hours. Collective malaise can easily take over in such conditions and preventing that can be a fulltime job for those involved with the team, such as the team renager, Graham Gooch.

We're pretty disappointed," admitted Gooch. "But while there is no disgrace in being

BY DEREK PRINCLE in Adelaide

losing end a good few times. Defeat is a part of the game, but it's not one to accept easily.

"What the players have got to do with four games left is to regroup and show the people of Australia they can play. It won't be easy, the next two games will be tough, but we have to play good cricket in order to get us in the right frame of mind for the Melbourne Test.

"The Ashes might have gone, but we've still got the series to play for. The players don't want to leave these shores without proving they can play cricket.

Gooch, who intends to speak to the whole team when he gets a moment (they were guests of the Prime Minister yesterday and have a High Commission function tonight), knows what it is like to lose in Australia.

"If you lose, the Aussies give you funny looks all the time," said Gooch, who could have mentioned the gloating in the media, but did not. "They really like winners over here whether it is their own side or the opposition."

One of the conundrums that most niggles people, though, is why England, who can compete and even beat sides who give Australia a run for their money, save their worst cricket for the old enemy? Considering that three-quarters of the Australian bowling attack England kept capitulating to was fairly inexperienced, no one appears

play well against them," said



we haven't put competitive totals on the board. Perhaps they don't allow you to play. Certainly, we've been unable to exert any pressure on them in any of the three Tests."

Solutions are not easy and, despite the better coaching and management structure now in place around the team, Gooch feels that an English cricket side will not beat the best teams on a regular basis, until changes are made at county level.

"We basically need a tough, competitive domestic system that breeds and hones talent to have a definitive explanation. long before it reaches the Test "It's true, we don't seem to arena. Young players need to be given a harder start in life."

two divisions, but is willing to wait and see. He is, however, in favour of change, but only because the current system he played in, and enjoyed, is not producing the cricketers we want. "Only the best players should play county cricket."

While he skirted around the question of whether the gap between Test and county cricket is greater now, there is no denying that the era which allowed two overseas players per team, the majority of them highly motivated, was far more competitive than it is now, despite the incorporation of that other panacea turned placebo: four-day cricket.

Of course, one-day cricket

for the Brisbane Test, the names of Michael Atherton and Angus Fraser will probably cause the biggest raised

Apparently, the selectors feel both players need rest, though what has tired Fraser out recently is anyone's guess. Mind you, the hectic itinerary and huge amount of flying were probably a consideration when it came to Atherton, despite the improvement to his

Graham Gooch, this time wearing his selector's hat, was at pains to explain that Fraser and Atherton had not been ruled out for the World Cup in

out of the 23-man squad picked ditions are likely to suit them better. "They'll definitely be in our thoughts," said Gooch.

This squad is probably the last chance to try out a few "unknowns" before 28 February, the closing date for naming World Cup squads. By then 19 players (including four reserves), have to be named, a number that gets reduced to 15 at the end of March.

As first-timers, Vince Wells and Mark Alleyne owe their chance to the fact that both are top-order batsmen who can bowl. Their inexperience will be countered by players like Neil Fairbrother, whose expertise at scoring quickly during the mid-He is not convinced about another matter and of those left. England next May, when con- land lacked last summer when named.

they were beaten by South Africa and Sri Lanka.

Nasser Hussain, not included in the preliminary squad a month ago, returns at the expense of Graham Thorpe, who is seeing a specialist about his back. John Crawley, hopelessly out of form in the Tests, stays as Stewart's reserve

Like Fairbrother, Thorpe is brilliant at farming the middle overs, when the run-rate needs to be upped. Unfortunately, unless he plays towards the fag end of the England A tour to Zimbabwe and South Africa, he will have no cricket in which to prove his fitness before the squads have to be

## **Ponting** eager to appear at inquiry

THE AUSTRALIAN Test batsman Ricky Ponting said yesterday that he wants to be the first player to appear at an Australian Cricket Board inquiry into the bookmaker scandal to ensure no shur can be cast over his much-publicised gambling habit.

The ACB chief executive. Malcolm Speed, earlier re-vealed that Ponting had told him last week about an approach from an Australian bookmaker to supply information about the national team in return for money. Ponting rejected the offer and wants to put his case as soon as possible to the inquiry into player conduct which was set up in response to the betting controversy involving his team-mates Shane Warne and Mark Waugh.

"What Ricky said to me, which I accept unreservedly, is that approximately a year ago in Sydney he was approached at a dog-race meeting," Speed said. "He was approached by a bookmaker, asked to provide information about the make-up of the Australian team and, in essence, who was going to be 12th man and the condition of the pitch. In return for that, he would be paid money. Ricky assures me he rejected the approach out of hand.

Speed declined to say how much money Ponting said he had been offered, while Ponting apparently did not name the bookmaker.

It is understood Ponting approached the team management last week, after the players were told that the Waugh and Warne story was to go public. It was decided to keep the matter quiet until after the third Test.

Ponting, whose Test berth is under threat because of poor form, released a book a few weeks ago titled Punter and is renowned for his betting.

The ACB fined Waugh and Warne in 1995 after it was learned they had received money from an Indian bookmaker for pitch and weather information during the 1994 tour of Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, Speed is hopeful Waugh and Warne will not have to go to Pakistan in response to a summons from that country's fixing and bribery.

## Lambert propels tourists to first win

BY LAWRENCE PRESCOTT

the first victory of their South African tour when they beat a Natal XI by eight wickets in a one-day game yesterday. After dismissing the home side for a modest 120, the tourists scored 123 for 2 in just 25.3 overs.

The openers Clayton Lambert and Junior Murray did the bulk of the damage with an of the bulk of the damage with an of the bulk o gan Reddy for 58, which came off 63 deliveries and included five fours and four sixes. Murray finished with 46 not out, and Shivnarine Chanderpaul hit Reddy for six over long-off to win the match. Reddy, a medium-pacer who was hit for 18 in his first over, finished with 2 for 34 off 3.3 overs.

Franklyn Rose put the West Indies on track for victory when he took 3 for 21 in an unbroken spell of 10 overs after overnight ain had delayed the start of y for 50 minutes. Rose's -ball partner, Nixon McLean, gave him solid support, taking 3 for 25.

The tourists failed to win any of their first seven games and lost both Test matches, in neither of which Rose was selected. He dismissed opener Keith Forde, Jonty Rhodes and Mehmood Badat in a performance that will have impressed before the third Test, which starts in Durban on 26 De-

cember. In Faisalabad, Pakistan are likely to include three spinners for the third and final Test against Zimbabwe which be-

gins today. Zimbabwe, who won the first Test in Peshawar, need a draw to win their first series abroad and Pakistan have prepared a spinners' pitch to try to avoid a reseat of their 1-0 series de-feater Australia in October. A bare, grassless strip at Faisalabad's Iqbal Stadium offers a contrasting sight to the lush

## The life and times of a master craftsman

IT COULD not have happened to a nicer man. And what a way to wrap up a distinguished career - a century in your final County Championship match to help your team lift the title.

Hugh Morris was a popular cricketer, affable, intelligent and with a refined sense of fun. Three England caps in 1991 two of them against the mighty West Indies - do not do justice to an impressive career in which he amassed almost 20,000 first-class runs including 53 hundreds.

His final season for Glamorgan, in 1997, began with a career-best 233 not out against Warwickshire and finished with 165; and the chronicle, not just of that season, but also of his cricketing life, is beautifully related in To Lord's With A Title – The Inside Story of Glamorgan's Championship, by Hugh Morris, with Andy Smith (Mainstream, £14.99).

to book stores earlier this year without much of a fanfare, which is a shame. To begin with it has not been set out in the ordinary way. Although Morris and Smith have taken the season match by match, they slide refercounty's past into each chapter whenever the occasion warrants it. There are few wasted words, and the figures summed up his time at Hampin the statistical section at the end are superb - the work of the meticulous county statis-

Morris could probably have played on into the 1998 season. his last days with bathos since they managed 13th place. No. he got it right. It was time for a change in direction. He walked out of the game to the relief of his creaking knees and into a job at Lord's as sucgot another title - the England and Wales Cricket Board's book, will now make videos and no doubt the T-shirt will follow. This is a great read.

#### BOOKS FOR **CHRISTMAS**

Today: Cricket

So, too, although admittedly in far shorter gobbets, is A Century of Great Cricket Quotes, compiled by David Hopps (Robson Books, £16.95). There are some old chestnuts - Fred Trueman in 1963 on facing Hampshire slow left-armer Peter Sainsbury: "I'm all right when his arm is coming over, but I'm out of form by the time the

bloody ball gets here." But there are also some present day one-liners which supply the pith in epithet including this thought provoking one from Vic Marks on England all-rounder Chris Lewis: "The enigma with no varia-It is a book that slipped in tion." Or how about Peter Roebuck's: "Batting is a major

trial before an 11-man jury." There are plenty of putdown lines as well. The late David Bairstow, the Yorkshire and England wicketkeeper. had a cute one which he would direct more often than not at ences to Morris's and the journalists: "You know threequarters of seven-eighths of sod-all." The great Barry Richards

shire with the cutting: "I would have preferred fewer runs and more friends." The Independent's former cricket tician Dr Andrew Hignell. correspondent, Martin Johnson, is featured heavily in the but that would have been to fill book. His description of the

moustachioed macho man of Australian cricket, Merv Hughes, showed a scant regard for the author's personal safety when he wrote: "The mincing run up resembles cessor to Micky Stewart. He someone in high heels and a panty girdle running after a bus." There are some cracktechnical director. Wrote the ers among the 2,000-odd that Hopps has culled from all eras of the 20th century. This should give hours of pleasure.

It is doubtful that Angus Praser's Tour Diaries (Head-line, £16.99) will grab the reader quite so readily, but it does attempt to be different. The lugubrious Fraser has kept a journal of his tours since his first to the Caribbean.

This is a distillation of five trips abroad and covers 10 Tests. But it is surely a matter of time before the world chokes on a surfeit of journals, even if they are a distillation. The problem is always that the author may well have been tempted to tinker with the entries with the wonderful benefits provided by hind-

The best of the genre has to have come from Fraser's Middlesex colleague Phil Tufnell, Postcards from the Beach (Collins Willow, £6.99). For a start it is a lot cheaper being paperback; for another it is crammed with dry humour and wry observations. It takes the reader into the dark world of the cricket dressingroom on England's West Indies tour last winter. This is

the way to produce a diary. One of the more entertaining autobiographies to hit the bookshelves is Devon Malcolm's punchy You Guys are History (Collins Willow, £16.99). It is a trip through one of English cricket's favourite characters, and Devon does not hold back. Forthright does not come into it. This gives it to you straight, however wayward the fast bowler has been

in his time.

Other books: Wisden Cricketers' Almanack (John Wisden, £27.50); NatWest Playfair Cricket Annual (Headline, £4.99); Cricketing Falstaff; A Biography of Colin Milburn, by Mark Peel (Andre Deutsch, £17.99); Number One - The World's best batsmen and Bowlers, by Simon Wilde (Victor Gollancz, £16.99); We're Right Behind You, Captain - The Alternative Story of an Ashes Year, by David Hopps (Robson Books, £17.95).

DAVID LLEWELLYN

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McVitie's regret to announce that a technical problem has been identified with the production of 200g (14 finger) packs of McVitie's All Butter Shortbread with a best before date of 19 JUN 99, followed by the letters TB.

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# Tom to wait for **Festival**

the Cheltenham Festival are greeted by swarms of hats filling the air. This year however. the millinery trajectory was somewhat different after Ask Tom had finished a bad sixth of Queen Mother Champion

Tom Tate, the gelding's trainer, was asked to explain this aberration to the stewards and stated something along the lines of "it's hardly surprising as we just put his leg back on with Sellotape this morning". Trilbies and flat caps were sent hurtling to the ground. Tate's prior documentation of Ask Tom's problems had been less than thorough.

The trainer later expounded that the condition of a horse is of no business to punters, the faceless who keep the whole show on the road. He prefers to deal rather more simply with the owners who keep his own personal dinghy floating.

The bulletin which emerged from the Tadcaster trainer yesterday therefore has to be treated with a speck of suspicion, though it appears that the big. ear-twitching Ask Tom will not run again until next year's Queen Mum (injury permitting and even then we will probably not know the extent of it).

"He injured a suspensory on his joint which just raised its terrupted his preparation," Tate said yesterday. "We've

"He won't be entered in the Lanson Vintage Stakes. Victor Chandler [which he won in 1997] and won't be entered until the New Year. In fact, he when Pertemos, the recruitwill go straight for the Queen Mum without a prep race. He's shorthand that they would not be a Town Moor spokeswoman back on the road again and we renewing their contract to sponare starting to get optimistic."

MOST DRAMATIC moments at BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

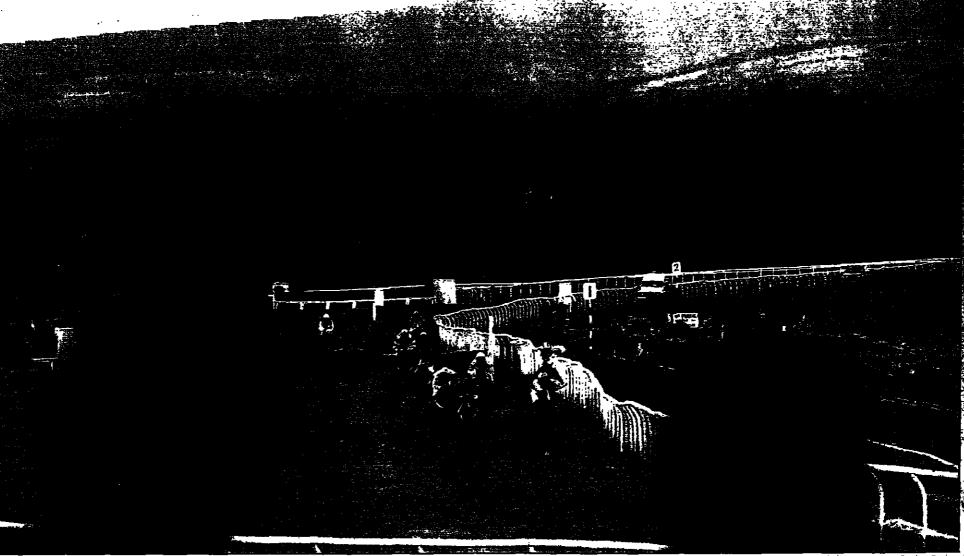
published yesterday, appear to add further fuel to the theory that this is something of a transitional jumping campaign. with the old lions being chased eight when favourite for the from the pride by a new generation. The young guns Lake Kariba and Edredon Bleu head the entries for the two-mile handicap at Ascot on 16 January, ahead of the likes of Klairon Davis, Jeffell and Celibate.

The last two named fought out the finish last year and Charlie Mann, Celibate's trainer, is hardly quaking about the influx of younger horses. "I'm very happy with 11st 4lb," he said. "It seems a handy weight.

"Celibate runs at Ascot on Saturday in the race he won last year [the Frogmore Handicap Chasel but he has 12st. Neither Mick Fitzgerald nor Richard Dunwoody are available, so I'll put my amateur, Noel Fehily, on. But the Victor Chandler has always been the aim after he all but won it last time."

Victor Chandler will not be the only sponsor getting a mention next year. Champagne Lanson have jumped into the breach at Goodwood and will support the Sussex Stakes for the next three seasons. The bubbles money will mean that the contest run on the second day of the Glorious meeting becomes the second most valuable all-aged head before Chellenham and in-mile race in Europe behind the rocket fuel. He has not forgotten. Queen Elizabeth II Stakes. The same firm will continue to spongiven the injury time to settle. sor the juvenile Champagne

As one vine flourished, though, another died yesterday ment agency, announced in sor the St Leger. The oldest Clas-The weights for the Victor sic is therefore left cruelly on its Chandler Chase, which were own at Christmas time.



Heading for home: Runners in yesterday's third race at Bangor, won by Peter Savill's Alpine Panther (right), make for the line.

Tiutchev nibbled at for the Champion

TIUTCHEV, WHO was an impressive winner of a handicap hurdle at Cheltenham on Friday, was yesterday the subject of some substantial ante-post bets at 50-1 for next year's Champion Hurdle with Coral The firm have cut him to 33-1.

The biggest individual bet was placed by a credit cus-tomer who had £400 each-way on the David Nicholson-trained

"The Champion Hurdle betting has been stagnant up until now, but now several customers are latching on to Tiutchev as the each-way value against Istabraq," Coral's spokesman, Simon Clare, said

Michael Brennan was sus-

pended for five days for whip offences on Golden Drum, a head winner of the handicap chase at Bangor yesterday. The stewards found that

Brennan had used his whip RICHARD EDMONDSON

Nap: Claireswan (Catterick 1.20) NB: Sparkling Cone (Towcester 2.00)

with excessive force and after the winning post Explaining why he had hit Golden Drum after the winning post Brennan said: "I pulled my goggles down at half-way and a sod got in my eyes and as a result my visibility wasn't very good."

VICTOR CHANDLE	ER CHASE (2	lm.
Horse (Spiner) weight	Ladbrokes	Victor Character
HIDI Society (N Meads, H) 11st 2b	7-1	7-1
Edredon Bleu (Mas H Kright) 11st 10to	5-1	8-1
Lake Kariba (P Nicholis) 11st 10th	8-1	8-1
Mandy's Mentino (J Gifford) 11st 26	6-1	10-1
Jeffell (A LT Moore, Iri) 11st 8lb	10-1	8-1
Squire Silk (P Nicholle) 10st 9lb	6-1	. 12-1
Collibete (C Marri) tist 4lb	12-1	14-1
Manhattan Castle (A Moore) 10st 1fb	14-1	16-1
Call Equiname (P Nicholis) 10st 11lb	14-1	12-1
Big Matt (N Hendemort) 10st 13lb	14-1	. 12-1
Plying Instructor (P Webber) 10st 11 b	12-1	14-1
Kisiron Davis (A L T Moore, Ir) 11st 8lb	16-1	20-1
Lord Dorcet (J Charlion) 10st 96	76-1	16-1
Mr Morose (N Twiston-Davies) 10st	16-1	18-1 ·
Get Real (N Henderson) 9st 51b	16-1	16-1
Monusia Fort (J Adam) 10st 2b	20-1	12-1
Astroeli Boy (P Hobbs) 9st 11/b	25-1	20-1
Hurricane Lamp (D Nicholson) 9st 7fb	25-1	201
Or Royal (M Pipe) 11st 9b	25-1	20-1
Mulker Prince (J H Johnson) 9st 8b	25-1	25-1
Cumbrism Challenge (T Easterby) 10st 1/b	33-1	25-1

Queen Mother Champion Chase (Cheltanham, 17 March) Victor Chandist: 7-2 Direct Route, 9-2 Ediredon Bleu, 5-1 Ask Tom, 8-1 Chample Lake Kariba, 10-1 Derdini, HB Society, 12-1 Jeffell, Kleiron Davis, Mandys Mantino

## Classic

attraction A COLT by Shirley Heights owned by The Queen from Sir Michael Stoute's stable is one of 601 yearling entries made for the 2000 Derby. With 544 entered for the 1999 Derby at the same stage last year the Mil-

last year. Their team includes the most expensive yearling sold world-wide this year, a Nureyev colt out of Go Solo bought at Tattersalls Houghton Yearling Sales for 3,000,000 guineas.

Sheikh Mohammed has 39 entries in his own name while 🤚 the remainder of the Maktoum family have a total of 76 entries

#### EXETER

1.10 DANCING POSER (nap) 2.40 Madam Muck 1.40 Skipcare 3.10 Country Kris 2.10 Saxon Duke

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in a few places).

M Right-hand, undulating course. Stiff test of stamine. Run-in of 250 yards.

Course is 5m SW of Exeter on A38. ADMISSION: Grandstand & Paddock £11; Siver Ring £5. Under-16s free. CAR PARK: £2 on rails; £2 members; remainder free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 63 winners from £57 runners (success rain 245%),
Miss H Knight 32-726 £27%. P Hobbs 29-135 £215%. R Prost 20-181 (124%). R Ainer

	3-88 (148%), N Twiston-Davies 11-53 (208%), N Frost 21-61 (124%), N America (148%), N Twiston-Davies 11-53 (208%), I To races (success rate 31.8%), A P leCoy 28-147 (19%), J Osborne 18-67 (269%), J Frost 17-131 (13%), C Maude 16-82 (74%), C Llewellyn 11-78 (141%), FAVOURITES: 90 wins in 499 races (38.1%), ONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: The Flying Doctor (110) & Royal Barge (2.10) have seen sent 215 miles.
ļ -	LINKERED FIRST TIME: None.  1.10 BRAMBLE MERTON AMATEURS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (G) £2,500 2m 7f Penalty Value £2,233  U3/20 ELTE REG (SD) (Marist Pipe Racing) M Pipe 9 120

1	U3 <b>:2</b> 0	ELITE REG (83) (Marter Pipe Racing) M Pipe 9 t2 0
2	33FFP3	THE FLYING DOCTOR (28) (Galloong Punters) P Bowen 8 Tf 6,
3	/05012	DANCING POSER (15) (C) (Baidings List) G Baiding 6 to 0
4	5-0253	THE MEMORER (FIT) (7) (G F Edwards) G Edwards 17 10 18
5	62,434	STEP IN LINE (12) (Mrs B M Blake) A Frost 6 to 11
6	2122-0	STAR MOVER (14) (Nick Shutts) Mass K Marks 9 to 11
7	25P-45	TOP SKIPPER (26) (C) (V G Greenway) V Greenway 6 to to
6	-06033	WESTERN CHIEF (7) (BP) (Miss B W Palmer) D Williams 4 10 8., Mr C Eddery (7)
9	OmP:	WARNER'S SPORTS (626) (SF) (Terry Warner) P Hobbs 9 107 Nr D O'Mestra (7)
10	0-0300	FEARLESS WONDER (13) (Mrs J D. Marte) R Leg 7 10 6
11	426033	DIVINE CHANCE (13) (M R Churches) M Churches 10 10 5
C	640P-6	ROSIS-B (13) (Mrs.) Warney S Knight 8 10 3
13	006-50	SUMPLY (26) (Mrs J Irwne) Mss Z Dayson 9 10 2
14	4-P666	SPERIT LEVEL (98) (C)   I R Payne)   R Payne 10 10 0   Mr P Payne (7)
15	P65-5P	STRATTON FLYER (70) (Stuart Howel H Home & 100 Mr R Gordon (7)
76	41F1-1	HAL'S PRINCE (173) (Ron Bartlett) J Neville 11 10 0
17	360/PP	LAJADHAL (FR) (56) (PD Purdy) P Purdy 9 10 0
		- 17 declared -
Ми	imyr; 10s	L True weights: Spirit Level 9st 10th, Stration Payer 9st 2th, Haf's Prince, Leladine 9st 1th.
BE	TTING: 3-1	Dancing Poses, 9-2 The Minder, 7-1 Elite Reg. 8-1 Step to Line, Western Chief, 10-1
		cloc 14.1 Star Mover Ton Sirinner 16.1 others

Elite Reg: Formerly useful hundler. First outing for 2 years when last of 9 to On My Toes at Taunton (3rn hosp hole, firm). Best watched unless market is positive. The Flying Doctor: Placed off 10to higher last term and signs of return to form after speil over lences when 13 lengths 3rd to Northern Masstro at Warwick (2m3) self hosp hole, good). Stays well but may not be high effective on soft Denoing Poser: Good 3 lengths 2nd to Bowles Patrol at Plumpton (3m) off this mark after neck with from same horse over 2m8 here. Goes well for amateur, acts on soft and looks is shorn contender.

after neck win from same horse over 2m6f here. Goes well for amajtaur, acts on soft and looks a strong contender. The Minder: Back in binkers when 19 lengths 3rd to Arctic Chariter at Taunton (3m hcap hdie, good to soff), 4b lower here and should be in hunt under Richard Fornstal, atthough most effective at Taunton. Step to Line: Placed six times but without a win this term. Weighted to take a hand on close 3rd to Golden Liy at Ultimeter (2m4f sell hole). Star Movier: Winning point-to-pointer earlier this year but plenty to find on distant 10th of 20 to Apache Park in Leicester 2m4f seller on reappearance. Top Skipper: Useful sort in this grade and back near best off this mark when 8 length 5th to No Forcotten in Huntingdon 3m2f seller has pooled. Goes well for amasteur.

5th to No Forgotten in Huntingdon 3m2f selling hosp (good). Goes well for ameticar Western Chief: Moderate maden who struggled to last 2m3f when 21 lengths 3m to Balmoral Princess at Market Rasen (heavy) as time and looks up against it here Warner's Sports: Useful novice chaser 1936-97, but unknown quantity over huntles and first run for two years. Rare selling-race runner from yard in form and market move could be significant Fearless Wonder: Best race for a long time when 43 lengths 9th of 13 to Arctic

Chanter over C/D last time. Difficult to fancy.

Divine Chance: Disappointing over hundes and tences ence 13 lengths 2nd to Glowing Path in 2m11 setter here in October. Looks up against it.

Roade-B: On a long losing run and has twice changed hands since last win in 1996-97. Hard to fancy on latest 97 lengths 6th to Arctic Charter over C/D Simply: Placed off 46th higher 4 seasons ago but little form over hundes since. 21 lengths 6th behind Not Forgotten on Huntingdon return and planty to find Spirit Level: Winner of Newton Abbot 3m31 seller 17 months ago and 2m21 novice handicale with Winner of Newton Abbot 3m31 seller 17 months ago and 2m21 novice handicale hard in the 1901 to 1901 to

VERDICT: Few of these appear to have entitusism for the game, and it should pay to acts with DANCING POSER, who put up a breve light behind the improving Bowles Patrol at Plumpton and looks handify weighted. Wenner's Sports, whose trainer has been producing his team fit after a lay-off, looks his most interesting rival, while Helf's Prince and Elite Reg are other possibilities.

HOECHST ROUSSEL EBF MARES NH NOVICE HURDLE

ı	L	1.40	(D) £5,000 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £3,948
1	1	12-2P1	BORA BORA (9) PAme Julia Baktanza) N Teeston-Davies 5 ft 3
1	2	05-4	SOWLING ON (17) (A M Morley) R Buckler 4 (0 10
	3	6-0	GAPLIC (18) (Arts J K Powell N Twisters Davies 6 10 10
Ł	4	1-	KELLY'S CONQUEST (242) (F.G. Magthews) J. Mulins 5 to 10.
ı	5	02436-	KENTFORD TINA (313) (D   Serei J Mulica 7 to 10Mr J D Moore (7)
	ā	UtiP3/	MALES MORE FUN (614) (A) Hail M Hail 9 to 10 D Salar (5)
ı	7	0-5	MISS B BENNETT (44) (B A Kilpatrol) M Pros 4 10 10 A P McCov
1	ġ	32U/2-	REGAL GEM (457) (SIF) (A Hutter and Intends) C Berwell 7 to 10
1	ğ	1211-2	SKIPCARL (28) (J B Suriey) Mass H Knight 6 10 10
	10	5600	TACHOMETER (14) (R Gartard) H Hove 4 10 10 R Ferrent
	π	1,03	VALLANT MEMORY (8) (Last Chance Partnershap) N Chance 5 to to
ſ	"	,-00	- 11 declared -
ι	пE	TTMC: 51.	10 Shinesid 100-20 Hora Roya S.J Valdert Manager 10-1 Marc & Dennett 16-1 Dennet

Gers. 18-1 Kentiord Tizz, 20-1 Kerys Conquest, 25-1 others

FORM GUIDE

Bora Bora: Comfortable winner of a similar event at Huntingdon (2m Bi) last week. Out of her depth at Chelterhent before that and more to do here with a penetry Bowling On: Has shown some ability in 3 outings in bumpers, but looked one-paced when 4th to Roboratte at Folkestone (2m1), soft) last month. Dam won over fences, ed 3f out in both out

Pertemps continue to support

the turf and will be most visible

over Kempton's Yuletide meet-

ing. However, their retreat from

Doncaster became almost in-

evitable after a rather nasty

spat at the Leger meeting this

year when a horse they hired for

the occasion was disqualified

from first place. As a conse-

quence, Tim Watts, the

Pertemps group chairman, al-

most became the first man in

space without the assistance of

'We've had a great four years

[with Pertemps] and Mr Watts

doesn't hold Doncaster race-

course responsible for what

happened. The stewards and

their decisions are completely

separate from the racecourse."

a statement read. It came from

and the unworthy may have

questioned the validity of its sen-

timents. You could call it the

Tom Tate factor.

Gaetic: Has weakened 3t out in both outings in bumpers, the latest at Hereford this month. Bred for jumping and may do better in time Kellys Conquest: Won a maidsn point-to-point at Cothelstone (good to soft) in April on his only outing last season. Promising sort, but may lack the speed for hurding Kentford Tina: Did not appear to stay 3m when tailed off at Uttowster on her last outing in February, Long absence to overcome and would have more chance in a Miles More Fun: Won 2 West Country point-to-points in 1996-97, but was pulled up

on her only outing under Rules here (good to firm) in a hunter-chase that season.
Will need much farther than this
Miles B Bennettc Ex-high fitty, who led until 4f out when 5th to Buckskin Cameo in
a Warnick bumper lists month, hisrd to fancy on that performance
Regal Gem: Won 2 Worcester bumpens as a 5yo, but ran only once last season
when 2nd in a novice hundle at Newton Abbot in August. Tackles soft ground for the
first time.

when 2nd in a novice hurdle at Newton Abbot in August. Tackles soft ground for the first time Sidposet: Won 3 point-to-points in Ireland test season and made a promising start under Rules when running Country House to half a length at Warwick (2m4f, good) last month. Looked in need of the outing and should go close Rachameter: Poor form in novice hurdles and bumpers. Did not appear to stay the trip when 10th of 13 to Yorkshire Edition at Wincamton (2m6f) last time Valient Memory: Won a bumper at Taunton (2m, good) on her only start last sea-son. No show in a similar event on her reappearance at Warwick last month, but fin-ished a promising 3rd to Tempestuous Lady on her hurdling debut at Leicester (2m, soft) last week.

VERDICT: Bora Bora won over a longer trip at Huntingdon last week, but will do well to concede 7b to SKIPCARL. Bought for 31,000gns at Doncaster in August, Hennetta Knight's sk-year-old won times of her five outlings in Irish point-to-points last season and there was a lot to like about her close second to Country House on her first outing over huntles at Warwick last month.

2	.10	RICHARD MERTON HAPPY RETIREMENT HANDICAP CHASE (D) £6,400 3m 2f Penalty Value £5,035
1	1F1/1-	FLAKED CATS (402) (D) (Exces of the EB Snaffett) P Nichols 9 11 To
2	#FM/	PALOSANTO (828) (C) (B A Kilpstrick) M Pipe 8 til 1
3		SCOTEY (BEL) (257) (D) (Mrs B M Searle) R Buckler 8 10 13
4		ROYAL BARGE (13) (E L Harres) P Boxen 8 10 10
5	1541-P	HOLD YOUR RANKS (14) (Mrs C Lose) R Frost 11 10.5
6	3/14-6	STEEL MOSS (13) (D) (Tony Fortio) C Barnel 9 to 5A P McCoy
7		SAXON DUKE (16) (C) (Saxon Duke Partnership) P Hobbs 7 t0 0
В	225UF!	ROCKY PARK (593) (Ar & Mrs Tony Geeles) G Balding 12 10 0
9	P-4300	ROBSAND (13) (Sir Bress McGreitri) G Balting 9 to 0
10	38PU-P	OTTER RIVER (13) (O Carler) O Carler 9 100S Burrough
		40 dealered

- 10 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Robsand 9st 2b, Otter River 8st 5b.
BETTING: 5-2 Secon Dute, 7-2 Fision Outs, 9-2 Palesanto, 5-1 Hoyal Berge, 6-1 Scotly, 12-1 Hold

FORM GUIDE

Flaked Oats: Former useful point-to-pointer, who won twice over tences in 1996-7. Felled to neappear either making a successful debut in a handicap at Fontwell in November 1997 and off a 7th higher mark here. Palosanto: Missed last season, but won 3 times over hundles and once over fences in 1996-7. Does not look badly treated on a 9th lower mark than his hundle rating and is certain to be fit despite long layoff.

Scottby: Suited by plenty of much and won twice over fences (soft) last season, Runs off a 7th higher mark and comer from a retails that her self-east a value of 50.

morates Royal Barge: Quize consistent chaser and returned from a break to be placed in handicaps here and at Wincanton, Booking of Durwoody is encouraging, but seems

one-paced Hold Your Ranks: Newton Abbot specialist, who won twice there last sesson. Runs off a 41b higher mark than his last success and lat down by his jumping when pulled

Steel Moss: Won a novice chase on his debut over fences at Wincenton lest sea

this month Sazum Duket: Who twice over fences season, but not always the best of jumpers. Placed twice over hardles before returning to fences at Newton Abbot lest time when he was in second place when taking 7 out. Rocky Parkt: Has not won for 4 years and reappears after a 19-month leyoff. Makes no appeal even though he has been dropped 9lb since his last run Robsand: Maiden chase, who lost touch from the 5th when 7th to Clever Remark (Royal Barge 2nd) here (2m7?) last time. Unitedly to end his long josing run here Otter River: Has a very poor completion record and his only placing last year was when last of 3 finishers in a nonce hundle. No chance 23th out of the pandicap

VERDICT: Secon Duke may be better at a sightly shorter trip, so this testing course may find him out. Seathly comes from a stable out of form, a remark which does not apply to FLAKED OATS. Successful in three of his four cutings over fences and six times in point-to-points, he has won first time out for the last two seasons, on

-	OUT OCCE	ESONS OVER THIS DISTRICE.
2	.40	TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) EBF MARES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 2m 3f Penalty Value £3,623
1		KINENAHALLA (14) (R J Spencer) G Balding 6 11 5
2	PtP-P2	PEARL'S CHOICE (140 (Choice Set Philo) J McCorroche 10 11 5
3	4F3P-0	CHURCHTOWN CHANCE (20) (Autor Recing) C Pophern 8 10 12
4	OO-	INDIAN MISS (26th Lice & Journe Richards) M Pice 6 to 12
5	1144-F	MADAM MUCK (s) (0) (The Co-collected) N Telepon-Device 7 10 12
8	OPPO-	NORA FOGHERTY (25th (Mass H Day) Mass H Day 7 10 12
7	πFπ-	PENGUIN (225) (H Messa-Bernetts) Mrs 5 Messar-Bernetts 7 TO 12
В	235/04	TREMPLIN (15) (R.J.Pesia) N. Hewis 7 to 12
9	20342-	WIN A HAND (206) (8 Rose) 8 Ryel 8 10 12 J Tizzerd
		- 9 declared -
		and the second s

BETTING: 9-4 (Kinnshatia, 5-2 Madam Bluck, 5-1 Penguin, 8-1 Indian Miles, 10-1 Pearl's Choice, 12-1 Churchtown Chance, 16-1 Tremplin, 25-1 others FORM GUIDE

Klanshalfa: Followed up Ludiow SmSf win with length success from Decybourg at Wincarrion (Sm1f) but looks out-end-out stayer and vulnerable over this trip Peer's Choles: Landad 2m4f Unioseter novice handidap chase in May from Scobe Grt, but running poorly lately and beaten its lengths when 2nd to Sassinghhurst Plyer at Wincarrion (2m, good to soft) last time

Churchtown Chance: Winning pointer but only poor in novice chases. Beaten 80 lengths when 7th of 12 to Oriental Boy at Newton Abbot (2m5/, soft) lest time lindles Milast lidot's Delight mare. Little sign of ability in two bumpers, but worth noting in the market with Pipe year on song Madam Mucic Winner twice over hurdles (rated superior to Kinnahalla) and making promising chasing delative when fell 5 out behind knight Templar at Fortwell (3m2) now ch). Listle to ward clenty of beating with a clear muci.

Nora Pogherty: Little evidence of ability in four hurdles outings. Chasing debut Penguin: Little sign of ability in hurdles, but winner of all completed starts in five point-to-points last season. Acts on soft ground and should play leading role Tremplin: Ex-Nicky Henderson. Respectable efforts over hurdles since lay-off. Looks the part on chasing debut and could be each-way value. Win A Handt Placed regularly giver timber last four seasons but has shown little aptitude for chasing and is probably best watched on seasonal debut VERDICT: MADAM MUCK was sheping nicely until the surprisingly came a crop-per on her Fontwell chasing debut, and with 7th allowence over this trip she looks the value to beat Klimahsilla, who has appeared to need every yard of 3m on her last two starts. Pengulit, who brings a smart reputation with her from point-to-points, could be the fly in the ointment, but the has a long absence to overcome.

[	3.10	HENRIETTA KNIGHT BIRTHDAY NOVICE HURDLE (E) £3,000 2m 1f 110yds Penalty V	HANDICA
1	00-311	FLEGANT DES COSSES (46) (CD) (R. J.B. Partners) P. Hoth's 6 tt 17	A Democraty
2	275-33	MEMISTO (14) (The Nemisto Partnersho) Miss H Kright 4 11 9	d Culfo
3	/4240-	COUNTRY KRES (247) (8 Ryali) 8 Ryali 6 11 4	Tibetta
4	23-4	BOATER (21) (Mrs C Loze) AT Musphy 4 11 2	A P McCr
5	00-244	CELTIC LAND (16) (Mrs J R Basterd) R Frost 5 to 10.	.15m
ē	4/86	PICKET PIECE (12) (Nis J Mould) D Nicholson 7 10 8	A Manual
ž	33-550	OREDITAL STYLE (13) (Style Partners) G Baiding 4 10 3	F Kenly (7)
ä	6P6-	TUDOR COTTAGE (256) (P D Purely) P Purely 8 TO 0	SBurger
9	00-400	TIME PROJECT (21) (Lady Maria Coverity) C Barwell 4 10 0	L Carrentos C
ŦJ	/P-R12	LIZZYS FIRST (13) (Eve Valley Racing) 8 Fl Milman 6 10 0	D Salter C
πī		SEVER GULL (327) (J Bull, A Cleave & T Harrin) H Hove 7 10 0	R Parkin
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Affairaum: 10st Weighter: Fusior Cottogs, Time Project Set 12th, Lizzya First Set 10th, Silver Gall Set 8th, BETTING: 7-4 Elegant Das Cottogs, Time Project Set 12th, Lizzya First Set 10th, Silver Gall Set 8th, BETTING: 7-4 Elegant Das Cottogs, 4-1 Country Kriz, 9-2 Nemisto, 8-1 Lizzya First, Picket Piece, 10-1 Boeter, 14-1 Cettic Land, 25-1 others

FORM GUIDE Elegant Des Cosses; Won a novice hurdle here lest month and then followed up in a handicap at Newton Abbot. Suited by soft ground, though could be vulnerable off

a 5b higher mark
Nemisto: Pleased 3 times from 6 starts in novice hurdles and looks to have a stiff
task on his first outing in handicap company. Has yet to race on ground as soft as
this and not the best of jumpers
Country Kriss Pair form in novice hurdles last season, perticularly when 2nd to Kadou
Nonartias at Warwick (soft). Has not run since April, but good chance if fit
Seater: Winner on the Flat, but only modest form in 3 novice hurdles. Made late hadvery when 4th to Arbospam on his reappearance at Taunton last month, but has yet
to run on soft cround over lurnos.

way when 4m is increased on its reappearance at author last month, out has yet to run on soft ground over jumps. Celtic Land: Rethreed by he 2nd to the useful Hoh Inveder in September, he was beat an a long way (51 langtiss) when 4th to Beau at Newton Abbot (2m11 soft) last time. Pichait Piecet: Lightly raced maidon hundler, who gave the impression that he failed to stay 2m when 6th to Young Deveneux at Chepstow (good) last time. May struggle on this newton and months on the contraction of the contraction.

stay 2m when 6th to Young Deverseux at Chepstow (good) lest time. May struggle on this much softer ground. Oriental Style: Pleased twice last season, but has become disappointing and was soon saled off after the 4th when last of 9 to Selberry (Lizzya First 2nd) here last time. Turdor Cottage: Maiden hurdler, showed a gimmer of ability when 6th at Taunton (good to farm) in February. Wit have to show considerable improvement to figure here. Time Project: Ex-Irish filly. Ran a promising race on her first outing last season when 5th at Chebanham, but does not seem to have trained on. Tabled off last of 53 at Taunton last conth.

ton ask morals. Description of the first time under Pulses when 2nd to Sold Gait here last time. Is again out of the handcap, but going the right way. Silver Guit: No sign of ability in a bumper and 3 outings over hurdes lest season. Appears to have no chance 20to out of the handcap.

VERDICT: Elegent Des Cosses had to be hard driven to follow up his win here at Newton Abbot last time and a 5b rise in the handleap may be just a bit too much. Nemisto has been given no easy task at the weights and though COUNTRY KRIS returns from a long layoft, he showed distinct promise last season. His 54-length second to Kandou Norantals at Warwick last December was a good effort consideration.

3.40 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,746 

FORM GUIDE

alee: Formerly smart performer, seeking first hundles with since May, 1997 (from wer). Has been chasing since and was tailed off lest behind Tuticher on resp-urce at Cheltenham lest week. Difficult to bancy at present Resildent Winner of 15 pages, but all on uncracle and traine 5 lengths 3rd to SID INVEST, PRID DOES CHARGE STICK AND WAS ISSECT OF SET DESCRIPTION OF TREES, DESCRIPTION OF SET OF

VERDICT: It could be significent that Philip Hobbe, trainer of OUT RANKING's Sandown conqueror Polar Prospect. Is prepared to take on the consistent and improving Pipe mans again with Harry, a signify-raced and progressive sort. But Out Ranking still appeals as pretty wall handicapped and it will take a smart one to peg that back in her preparat mood.

RACING RESULTS

Going: Chase course: Good to Soft

(Good in places)

sh. 8-1 Riverbank Rose, 10-1 Eben Al Habeeb, Mulzenberg (6th), 14-1 Dovetto (4th), Tonnere, 20-1 Weet And See (5th), 25-1 Mademist Sam, 33-1 Anoso, Dames,

1.40: (3m handicap hurdle)

n. 9 nm. ½, 4, 3, nk, do-ht. (Winner bay gelding by Tirol out of Kentucky Wildcat, trained by Mrs M Raveley at Saltburn for P D Savin). Tote: 53.90; E190, E170, E330, DF: 5770, CSF: \$1804. Tricest: £19933. Tote Tricest

12 rain Fig. css. 7, 14 (Withof Cresting geld-ing by Bleck Ministral out of Four in A Row, trained by J O'Stree at Stratford upon Auon Total \$130, \$200, \$230, \$270 DF: £950, CSF; \$140,14, Tricust: £2,322.30

3. Finisterre. R McCarath 11-2 Also: 4-1 Tain Ton, 20-1 Cherna Paradiso (48th), 20-1 Grand Musica, 33-1 Isst 12-2; Scalp, 50-1 Chadwick Bank, 100-1 Merry Christmes, Pacietin Parky, Singing Scally, 200-1 Althrey Ruler. 200-1 Altinely Ruler.

Is ram. 8. (Winner bay gelding by Polar Felcon out of Ceramic, trained by N Gaselee at Upper Larthourn for D R Stoddart). Total: Cept L220, 2170. DF: CHJO. CSF: 2530, NR: Gramp Roh. There are no connected distances or observed the star no connected distances or observed.

3.10: (2m 4i 110yds handcap chase) 1. STEP ON EYRE ......R Johnson 5-2

Denicheur.
7 ram, 2. 10. (Winner bey gelding by Step Together out of Jane Syre, trained by H Daily at Ludlow for Anna, Duchess of Westmarters, Total: \$2.60, \$2.00, \$3.00,

3.40: (2m 1f NH Flat race) 1. SMBER HILL 1. SMBER HILL R Messey 5-1
2. Prince for X Abpuru 14-1
3. Johnny Joe Mr B Gibson 5-4 fav
Also: 3-1 Navanne (Stit), 7-1 S And O P
(4th), 14-1 Arctic Knight, 33-1 Arctic Knig
(8th), 33-1 Rocky My Boy, 50-1 Outle A
Lady.

ing by Phardenia out of Princess Wager, trained by D Nicholson at Tample Guting for J E Brown). Tate: £23,80; £180, £290. £10. OF: £2720. CSF: £65.51 Placepot: \$48480, Quadpot: \$4190

Weeheby.

15 ran. 8. hd, 9, 20, 4. (Winner chestnut gelding by Tonus out of Bonne Bouche, trained by lan Williams at Alvechurch for John Poynton 8. Jim Brewer). Total: £1200; £350, £240, £290. DF: £2150. CSF: £5788. Tricart £2726.

ast 1:32/56.

1.10: (2m 4f 10)yds novice chase)
1. SAD MAD BAD \_\_\_\_\_\_P Niven 11-4
2. Minella Derby \_\_\_\_\_\_ J Tezard 7-2
3. Jessolle \_\_\_\_\_\_ A Dobbin 14-1
Also: 11-8 tav Tiraldofal, 14-1 Ripartus
(ath), 20-1 Planet Iretard, 50-1 Toms
Choice, Total Joy (Sh),
9 rian, 8, 17, 12, dist. (Winner bay gelding
by Sumny's Halo out of Quite Attractive,
trained by Mrs M Reveley at Salutum for P
D Savill, Tote: \$2,70; \$1:0, \$1:50, \$2.30 DF:
\$2780. CSF: \$1:58.

1. ALPINE PANTHER P Niven 7-2 fav
2. Flying Gurner R Johnson 9-2
3. Sesame Seed M A Fitzgerald 16-1
Also: 4-1 Sleepy River (4th), 9-2 Royale
Angels, 8-1 Dom Beltrano (5th), 8-1 Stew
arts Pride (5th), 14-1 Bakkar, 100-1 Remouslet

fects: £172.80.

Gien Oak (5th), 12 ran. Hd. dist. 7, 14. (Winner chastrut geld-

CSF: £1938. NR: Granny Rich. There are no extended distances or placings for the rest of the meeting because of a power tailure.

teur, ... Ludy. 9 ran. ½, 25, 8, 13, ½. (Winner chestrut geld-therstante out of Princoss Wager, Place 6: £23180. Place 5: £68.30

CATTERICK Going: Good 2. Scotion Green 7-2; 3. Jordi La Forige 20-1 11 ran. 1 6. (M W Essterby Sheriff Hut-ion). Tota: \$250, \$120, \$170, \$670, DF; \$490, CSF; \$6.21.

1.30: 1. CRABBIE'S PRIDE (Mr.J Crowley) 7-2 fav; 2. Flat Top 6-1; 3. Ring of Vision 9-2. 9 ran. 5. 1 (Mrs S Smith, Bingsay). Tobe 5360; 5120, 52:0, 52:80. DF: 6110. CSF: \$22.74 Tricast \$86.82

2.00: 1. LA RIVIERA (B Storey) 9-W Ballementidden 9-1; 3. File de Croesquestav; 4. Lieleughtin Abbey 12-1 17 (1985), 15. 11/4. (J. Chariton, Stocksfield). Tota: 2830; £220, £320, £280, £150, DF; £6790. CSF: £74.98. Tricast £29 2.30: 1. JACK FLUSH (A S Smith) 14-1; 2. Oversman 5-4 far; 3. Berley Meadow 2-1. 8 ran. ½, 6. (B Rothwell, Warthil), Tota: £1520; £220, £150, £110, DF: £2770, CSF; £2891. 3.00: 1. BALLAD MINSTREL (L Wyer)

11-10 fav; 2. Radanpour 20-1; 3. Independent Grey 66-1, 9 ran., 10, 5. (J FRzGereld, Matter). Tota: £2.20; £150, £180, £2.90. DF: £17.40. CSF: £22.43. NR: Oueens Brigade. 3.30: 1. RUSSIAN ASPECT (C McCormack) 7-2 it tay; 2. Strattan Gold 7-2 it tay; 3. Sharmon Shoon 12-1; 4. Jone Holley 12-1. 16 mm. 1/4 10 5 /M W For ton) Tota: £580; £180, £140, £480, £240, OF: £1080, CSF: £1532, Tricast: £132.31 Placepot: £12.30, Quadnot: £4.30 Place 6: £1007. Place 5: £882

WOLVERHAMPTON Going: Standard

12,45: 1. ARCTIC THUNDER (G Faultin 25-1; 2. Il Principe 11-8 lav; 3. Hiltzen 7-1. 9 ran. 1/4, 1/4. (B Paling), Tote: £23-40; £720, £130, £180, DF; £1740, CSF; £5307, Tricast:

1.15: 1. PRIDE OF BRICTON (C Cogen) 7-2 far; 2. Shefi 9-2; 3. Juwed 8-1 10 ren. Ste-hd. %. (P Evens). Tota: \$440; \$180, \$180, \$250 DF; \$120 CSF; \$7779 Tricest; \$1178 1.50: 1. YANOMANE (G Carter) 5-1; 2. Dryad 1-3 fay; 3. Chinaberry 10-1, 7 ran, 11/4, 21/4. (J Berry), Totac £5.20; £180, £190 DF: £2.10. CSF: £6.40. 2.20: 1. INDIAN BLAZE (P Goode) 3-1 ji fav;

2. Village Native 10-1; 3. Essandese 8-1. 12 ran. 3-7 [t tav Macts Dream. 3. ½. (D Esworth). Tota: £5:10; £160, £360, £360, DF: £7730, CSF: £3475, Tricast: £21343. 2.50: 1. WEET U THERE (P M Culm) 25-1; 2. ipcress Filly 11-1; 3. Peruvian Star 4-1; tax 8 ram. /s. sh-hd. (R Holinshead), Totach ye 22170; 2321 5:30; Fill DF: 53770, CSF; 12475; 2.71 ficast: £44741. 2.20: 1. MISS TAKE (T G McLauphin) 7-4 for; 2. The Last Word 6-1; 3. Harquebusier V-1 11 ran. 10, 3. (P Evaris). Totar 62:00; 61:30 61:00 57: 64:60 CSF: 51003. 3.50: 1. PERTEMPS MUSSION (SF: 12003) 2. Royal Roulette 4-1; 3. Imperial Prince 18-1: 2. Royal Roulette 4-1; 3. Imperial Prince 13-2 6 ran. 5-4 far Paradise Navy (SR), 1%, 1%, (J. Pearce), Tota: 1970; 130, 5-250, 5200, DF: 532.50, CSF: £38.56, Tricast: 5202.4.

4.20: 1. C-HARRY (W Ryen) 7-1: 2. Safty Behaviour 5-1: 3. Faym 13-2: 12 ran. 5-2 fav Time of Night (4th). 1, rk. (R Hollinshead). Tota: £5.90: £2.30. £1.70. £3.40. DF: £15.40. CSF: £35.58. Ticast: £2.8.72. Placepot: £8.70 Quadpot: £4.80. Place 5: £9.27, Place 5: £5.32.

**XTHE INDEPENDENT** RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS TOWCESTER 971 981 CATTERICK 972 982 EXETER 973 983 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

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NDEFENDENT

# Bath morale given boost by Webster

EITHER RICHARD Webster is going daft in his old age, or he really is as hard as his clubmates allege. The Bath captain believes he will be fit to face his old muckers from Swansea in a so-called "rebel" match at St Helen's on Boxing Day, even though he fractured his eye socket - or rather, had his eye socket fractured for him - in last weekend's Premiership defeat by Northampton.

The West Countrymen have become so closely acquainted with desperate injury misfortune in recent weeks that they fully anticipated spending the next two months without Webster's unique brand of heart-onthe-sleeve leadership. However, the former Lions flanker and ugby league professional insists he has it on good medical authority that the injury will heal quickly enough to give

mer brethren from West Wales. Bath have the small matter of Saturday's home game with Saracens to worry about first, though, and they must attempt to halt their sharp descent of the table without the services of another international forward, Mark Regan. The former England hooker was concussed during an unforgiving first half against Northampton – "I ran

him a chance of facing his for-

BY CHRIS HEWETT

got the headache," he said yesterday - and must serve a mandatory three weeks on the sidelines. The only good news for Andy Robinson, the harassed Bath coach, is that another recently concussed Test player, Matt Perry, is available again at full-back.

Two years of committee room strife have left the entire rugby world suffering from a form of concussion and the symptoms are likely to grow more pronounced today as the International Board lock briefcases with the Rugby Football Union at a disciplinary bun-fight in Dublin. The RFU, summoned to answer charges ranging from rank insubordination to managerial impotence, are represented by Francis Baron. its new chief executive, and a bevy of lawyers and while Vernon Pugh, the IB chairman, insisted that "common sense and I'll do what I can to assist. would prevail", no one was

Meanwhile, Scotland announced the details of a four- ous situation given Scottish match World Cup shakedown in South Africa next summer. The itinerary had one obvious merit - the very noticeable absence into Tim Rodber and I've still of a fixture against the Spring- to take over the reins.

MARATHON CHAMPION, LOOKS AHEAD

TO NEXT YEAR'S CHALLENGES

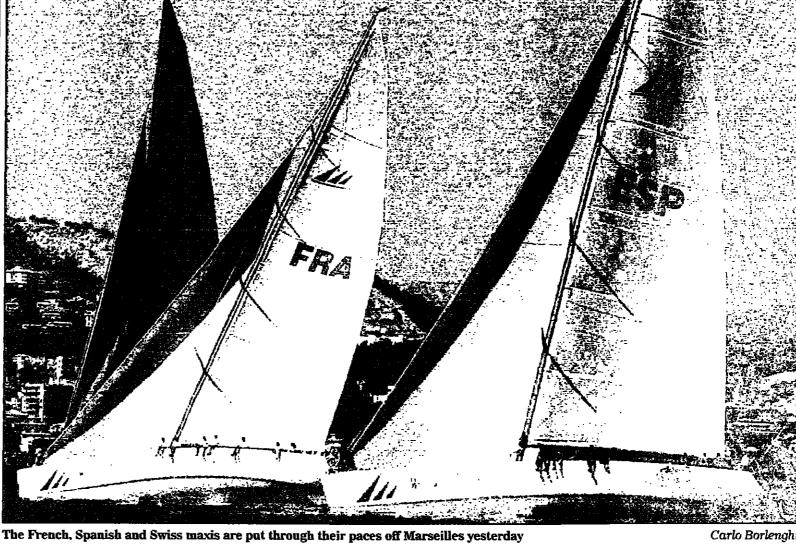
boks - but will nevertheless be quite testing enough, thank you very much. Matches against Natal and the Blue Bulls of Northern Transvaal are no one's idea of a picnic and the MTN Falcons are among the most capable of the developing Currie Cup provinces. Only Northern Free State. against whom the Scots open their tour on 16 June, will be considered eminently beatable.

Scotland's crisis club. Stirling County, have appointed the former national coach, Richie Dixon, as their temporary head of team affairs while they search for a long-term successor to Paul McKeany, the New Zealander who quit after last weekend's calamitous home defeat by Boroughmuir.

"I have far too much on my plate at Murrayfield to consider taking on a permanent role at Stirling," said Dixon, who is heavily involved in a variety of Scottish Rugby Union projects. "But I will not see them stuck

Stirling are eight points adrift at the foot of the Premiership One table, a dangerclub rugby's current state of flux. Two former captains, Stew-

art Hamilton and Brian Ireland, are among the favourites TOMORROW CATHERINA MCKIERNAN, THE LONDON



## £10m plan for maxis' championship

£10m initiative to establish a new world championship of maxi yacht racing.

Plans outlined in Marseilles yesterday revealed that four of the eight events which make up the series will be based in the United Kingdom, including the opening North Sea Race from Harwich and the Fastnet Race finale to Plymouth, which follows Cowes Week

The fleet of eight, 80ft maxis, designed by Bruce Farr, has had a chequered career, starting life as the Grand Mistral fleet meant to rival the Whitbread, now Volvo, Round The World Race.

BY STUART ALEXANDER in Marseilles

When that, and the building programme, faltered, its founder, the Whitbread veteran Pierre Fehlmann, linked up with a fellow Swiss businessman, the immensely wealthy pharmaceuticals executive Ernesto Bertarelli, to complete the final three boats and produce a revamped regatta programme.

Fehlmann's carrots include a relatively low-entry cost to a ferent national sponsor for sponsor, just £140,000 for the each of the boats, but there is world championship series, a sure to be some flexibility if the

first prize of £250,000, and ploughing nearly all of the income from a series sponsor he hopes to announce next month into boosting television cover-

He also plans to transmit onboard television direct from the race course to giant screens on shore in order to improve spectator accessibility to the racing, which will be staged as close to the shore as possible for yachts which need a minimum depth of 16 feet in which to work

The plan is to have a dif-

need arises. Fehlmann says he is close to deals with French, Swiss, Swedish and Italian companies. One of his skippers, Ludde Ingvall, who in 1997 set a record for crossing the Atlantic in one of the same boats, said, in his capacity as one of Fehlmann's vice-presidents, that talks were also advanced with a British group.

His co-vice-president is Lawrie Smith, though the British Whitbread skipper is now in Australia to reacquaint himself with sailing a Soling with his 1992 Olympic bronze medal crew, before the world championship series in Mel-

That leaves his America's Cup syndicate boss, Professor Andrew Graves, to conduct negotiations - a further meeting is scheduled for tomorrow - to find the £5m needed to start building the British boats next

It looks to others to run the racing - it will piggy-back existing events, including the four in the UK, which include the Channel race, plus a North Sea regatta in the Netherlands, Germany's Kiel Week and the Round Gotland Race in Sweden.

For the moment, there is no challenge to the Volvo Ocean Race in 2001 but, said Ingvall:

#### CATTERICK

12.20 Brief Suspence 12.50 Castletown Count an Maestro 2.50 Count Karmuski 3.20 Native

E Left-hand course, undufating and sharp. Run-in 240yds. Course is NW of town on A6136. Darlington station 14m - buses to course. ADMISSION: Club C11, Tattersalis C7; Course C250 (under 16s tree all enclosures). CAR PARK: Reserved C2 rest tree.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 23-95 (242%). M Hammond 15-122 (12.3%), Mrs S Smith 12-84 (14.3%), G M Moore 11-68 (16.2%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 26-84 (31%), R Garritty 13-71 (18.32°-), A S Smith 12-85 (14.1%), B Storey 12-136 (8.8%). OURITES: 16 wire in 327 races (35.5%)
BLANCERED FIRST TIME: J J Baboo (12.50), Desperate Days visored, 1250), Cumbrian Masstro (220), Rawi (220).

12.20 AMPLEFORTH 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 05-11-0 BRANCH END (34) J Charlton 6 11 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_ B Storay 6-1423 DATEM (16) M Hammond 6 11 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_ B Hearding 520-16 MELDRUM PARK (15) (CD) F Murphy 5 11 0 \_\_\_\_\_

2 6-1423 DATEM (16) M Hammond 6 11 5 ... B Harding
3 2040 MELDRUM PARK (15) (CD) F Murphy 5 11 0 ... My J P Michamara (5)
4 000-00 BRAVE MAIN (15) J Curts 4 10 2 ... J Cattaghan
5 005-9 BRIEF SUSPENCE (19) R Fahrey 5 10 2 ... L Waye
6 03-4 CASH FOR QUESTIONS (26) R Fahrey 5 10 12 ... E Cattaghan
7 1-2 DYNAMIC LORD (17) (BF) T Tate 4 10 12 ... R Garritly
8 60 JMMY SPRITE (15) B BRU 7 10 2 ... R Garritly
10 0-0350 MINSTER (27) J Turner 4 10 12 ... R Supple
10 0-0350 MINSTER (27) J Turner 4 10 12 ... R Supple
11 0-04 OVER THE SOUMAY (16) L Lungo 6 10 12 ... R Supple
12 05F-30 SCOTMAL BOY (37) J Houserd Lohrson 5 10 12 ... A Dobbin
13 2th SPRINGFIELD SCALLY (55) S Golings 5 10 12 ... A Dobbin
14 000-P0 ALLERBECK (16) J Goulding 8 10 7 ... L Cooper (7)
15 PF30-0 BROOK HOUSE (26) B Bousfield 7 10 7 ... S Taylor
17 00590 CHANTILLY HOSE (22) Miss R Brews 6 10 7 ... S Smith
18 PUUP LISEAND LADY (202) Miss S Smith 8 10 7 ... S Portin
19 declared BETTING: 7-2 Brief Superiors, Springfield Scally, 4-1 Dynamic Lord, 6-1
Maichtum Park, 7-1 Cash For Questions, 8-1 Joby Minster, 10-1 others
FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

If she proves as good over hurdles as she was in bumpers then Springfield Scality will take the beating here. However, she may be worth opposing at likely odds on her jumps debut, and despite a poor run first time this season, BRIEF SUS-PENCE is given the vote ahead of Datem and Meldrum Park.

L		<b>∠</b> F) £3,500 added 2m 3f
1	03-404	AMOEBIC (10) M Tochunger 5 tl 5 C McCommack (5)
2		CASTLETOWN COUNT (16) M W Easterby 5 Tl 5. R Gentity
3	506U-0	DESPERATE DAYS (34) F Kirby 9 tl 5 S Taylor V
4	QT-P0	DRUMCLIFFE (12) Mrs S Gramali7 ft 5 B Storey
5	JULF-	ETAT MAJOR (FH) (233) Mrs S Bramall6 11 5 C O'Dwyler
6		J J BABOO (26) M Hammond 5 11 5 B Harding B
7		JUDICIOUS NORMAN (33) J Adem 7 11 5
В		MADE OF STEEL (22)   Emmerson 9 11 5 J Supple
9		MENALDI (28) J Wade 8 11 5
10		PERSUASIVE TALENT (15) D Lamb 7 11 5 J Burke
71	600-P5	PHARBRIG (26) F Murphy 6 11 5
2		SEABURN (16) N Mason 8 11 5 K Johnson
13	/6BF03	CREGG ROSE (19) E Came 8 tf 0
		- 13 declared -

BETTING: 2-1 J.J Beboo, 5-2 Pherbrig, 7-2 Castletown Count, 12-1 Amoebic, Etat Major, 14-1 Menaick, 16-1 Judicious Norman, 20-1 others

**FORM VERDICT** Castletown Count looks the one to best here, but may not be the ideal sort to take a short pince about. Another with a chance is Pharbrig, who shaped better here test time, but in what is basically a modest even; it might be worth taking a chance with MADE OF STEEL, who goes on the ground, has run one or two decent races and should start at a decent price.

1.20 TIGERLINE SPORTS HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 3m 1f 110yds

Minutum weight: 10st True transiese weight: Sooman Springe Set 3tb. BETTING: 9-2 Products To Fame, 5-1 The Next Waltz, 5-1 Old Hush Wing, 8-1 Topotheroorthracing, 10-1 Vilprano, Bridte Path, 12-1 Prinstive Heart, Cash Box, Cypress Avenue, Five Flogs, 14-1 Tity, Clairossan, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT Only a handful make much appeal at all here. THE NEXT WALTZ, progressive, in form and with no worries about his effectiveness under conditions, makes most appeal, with Topothenorthracing a bigger-priced alternative. 1.50 CHARLES VICKERY MEMORIAL HAN-DICAP CHASE (D) £5,500 3m 1f 110yds U2-P12 PUREVALUE (19) M W Easterby 7 12 0 ......

15020 TAITS CLOCK (6) F Murphy 9 Ti 2.... FPP-62 HAG'S WAY (21) J H Johnson 8 10 10 6 3F-0F5 MAYSE O'GRADY (10) (D) W Cummgtom 9 10 3 . N Smith - 8 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Ham N'Eggs, 5-2 Purtvalue, 4-1 Gale Force, 5-1 Hag's Way, 8-1 Talts Clock, 25-1 Maybe O'Grady

FORM VERDICT

Despite the claims of Purevalue the one to take catch the eye here is MAYBE O'GRADY, who has dropped down the handicap after some below-par runs on unsuitable soft ground son. Gale Force is another to consider

2.20 FIRTH STEELS NORCLAD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m 

-11 declared 
\*\*Immum weight 10st True handicap weight Canadan Fantasy 9ct 0fb
BETTING: 7-2 Eastern Project, 4-1 Xalpete, 5-1 Cumbrien Maestro, 7

Apollo's Daughter, Eriny, 8-1 Issyin, Klerchem, 14-1 others FORM VERDICT

Back over his optimum trip on a track that suits him so well, CUMBRIAN MAESTRO looks to have a sound chance here.

2.50 CATTERICK RACE CLUB 1999 HAND-ICAP CHASE (F) £3,500 added 2m 

03-544 FLAPJACK LAD (20) N Twiston-Davies 9 10 5 JJ Goldstein (5) 34-12P GABLIC BILIE (15) (CD) Mrs S Smith 6 10 5 S Durack 2104-P MAJORS LEGACY (23) H Daty 9 10 4 . . . . ....R Johnson – 7 declared –

- 7 declared -BETTING: 11-4 Name Ot Our Father, 3-1 Spankling Cone, 4-1 Majora Legacy, 9-2 Ramallah, 6-1 Flapjack Lad, 10-1 Gaeffe Blue, Brave Bec-caseer

FORM VERDICT

s a tricky event because Damza, Last Try and Claver ing, who finished first, second and third over C&D last time are closely weighted on that form. Last Try might come out best of that this time, but he's fully exposed and COUNT

3.20 GARRISON INTERMEDIATE NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

00 BACKEND CHARLIE (22) B Murray 4 11 4 JM H Naughton (5) O SMORRO CHARLE (22) Plants 4 11 4 ... ... L Cooper (7)
O GEOMAR (22) P Beaumont 5 11 4 ... ... ... B Grates (5)
HARVESTMAN J Hetherton 5 11 4 ... ... ... ... Mr B Gibson (7)
46 KILCREGGAN (22) Mrs M Revery 4 11 4 ... Mr A Dempsley (3)
MARSHALL MOURTAIN M W Easterby 4 11 4 ... ... ... G Lee 0 SPECKLES (41) k Ryan 4 10 13 ...... T Hagger (7) 5 STATE OF LOVE (41) (BF) W Storey 5 10 18 ..... J Jamilna (7)

GOE- SWIFTLY SUPPLEME (\$17) T Curbert 5 to 13 . Mr. T Davidson (7) - 16 declared -BETTING: 11-4 Kilcreggan, 3-1 Native Alfak, 7-2 State Of Love, 6-1 Nicode-mus, B-1 Well I Nover, 20-1 Marshall Elountain, Speckles, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT None of the newcomers makes great appeal on paper, so the

ones with expenence are preferred here. NICODEMUS, a half-brother to Simply Dashing, is a tentative choice to reverse Newcastle placings with Native Affair, who had the benefit of previous expenence in a race in which both showed promise.

■ Double Trigger's exploits in his final season have earned his owner, Ron Huggins, the accolade of Owner of the Year from the Racehorse Owners Association. Double Trigger was retired to stud at the end of a season which saw him gain emotional victories in both the Goodwood Cup and Doncaster Cup after finishing runner-up to Kayf Tara in the Ascot Gold Cup. His victories in the Goodwood and Doncaster events gave him a hat-trick of wins in both and took his career earnings to over £550,000.

## Higgins falls to Lee for first time

THE WORLD champion, John Higgins, was knocked out of the Irish Open in Dublin yesterday, losing to the Grand Prix titleholder, Stephen Lee, for the first time in his career. And after his 5-3 second round defeat, Hig-gins had few complaints. "It

Since beating Matthew Stevens at the UK Championship in Bournemouth three weeks ago, Higgins has won one game in four attempts.

He was beaten by Alex Borg in the first round of the Rothmans Grand Prix in Malta and went under to John Parrott for the first time in their eight most recent meetings in the German Masters in Bingen. -With hindsight I wish I had

not gone to Malta," said the 23year-old Scot. "I haven't been able to practise properly since the UK and I really need four or five hours every day."

Lee, who had suffered five previous defeats against against Higgins, said: "He can't play if you keep him in his SNOOKER

BY KIERAN DALEY

there, but I guess it was just a matter of time. Winning the Grand Prix gave me a lot of confidence, and I wouldn't be here was scrappy, and I just didn't if I didn't think I could win an-perform," he said. if I didn't think I could win an-other title."

Ken Doherty gave the home crowd another victory to cheer when he defeated first round giant-killer Bradley Jones 5-2 to set up a quarter-final with the German Masters runner-up, Mark Williams. "I'm under more pressure because it's on my own patch, but it's a nice pressure to have," said Doherty, the world No 4.

"The crowd make you feel so good because they're cheering every shot. And the atmosphere will be even better if I manage to keep on winning. I beat Mark 6-2 in Malta recently, but that will count for little tomorrow afternoon. I'll certainly need to step up a few gears.

Williams compiled a break of 139, the highest of the event so

#### TOWCESTER

**HYPERION** 

12.30 Summer Flower 1.00 Edmond 1.30 Diddy Rymer 2.00 Majors Legacy 2.30 Wilmott's Fancy 3.00 Mr Snaggle 3.30 No Quarter

Sing: Soft (Heavy patches on hurdles course).

Right-hand, unduising circuit. Run-in of 140yd.

Course is on A5 SE of town. Bus service from Northampton ion ADMISSION: Members (13, Tatlersalis C9 (OAPs C6);

LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 29-72 (40.3%), K Balley 11-49 (22.4%), Mrs J Pitman 10-47 (21.3%), T Forster 9-65 (13.8%). LEADING JOCKEYS: A Maguire 19-62 (306%), W Marsion 16-93 (172%). A P McCoy 14-71 (197%). N Williamson 13-50 (26%). FAVOURITES: 179 was in 458 (aces (391%) BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Our Man Film (230)

12.30 TURKEY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m 2017-50 ROBERT'S TOY (F5) (D) G Ham 7 2 0. M A Fizgerald B 3223-P MAWTHORNE GLEN (163) (CD) J Long 11 17 7. \_\_B Fenton PS2ZD AMMLHONNEIBORIES (13) M/s B Waring 8 17 2. \_\_\_\_ E Byrne 3-2620 AMMLHONNEIBORIES (13) M/s B Waring 8 17 2. \_\_\_\_ P Hide B 35220 ROUND ROBIN (6) (BF) M/s A E Johnson 4 10 6. R Johnson B 25/54 CAPTAIN TANDY (472) (CD) C Smith 9 10 5. \_\_M Ranger 000 JUST A ROADIE (285) G Thomar 5 10 2. Clare Thomar 7 (7)

SIGSP. BATTLESHIP BRUCE (492) (BF) B Llewelyn 6 10 0. Michael Brenns LIPODS SUMMAER FLOWER (12) (D) Mass Z Davison 8 to 0 .D Gallegher P/O-6P THE GREY TEXAN (29) A Blackmore 9 to 0 . . R Garrard (7)

Menimum weight: 10st True hendican weights: Battlestup Bruce Sst 12th, Summer Power 9st 10th, The Grey Texan 8st 5th, Summer Power 9st 10th, The Grey Texan 8st 5th, BETTUNG: 3-1 Be Brave, 7-2 Hawthorne Glen, Round Robin, 6-1 Robert's Toy, 8-1 Amillianmemories, 10-1 Captain Tandy, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT

tion marks against most of these and only a few worth considering. Be Brave is an infrequent wriner, but has to be feared on his recent Leicester second, while Summer Flower shaped as if there was a bit more to come last time. But conditions will suil HAWTHORNE GLEN, who is back in a seller for the first time in nearly three years and has a clear

1 10-5-1 DANGER FLYNN (12) (CD) Mrs P Sy 8 11 5 ... W Marston 2 Firm-1 EDMOND (FR) (27) (D) H Day 6 11 5 ... ... R Johnson 3 (22) FG BOULEVARD BAY (14) Mrs P Robeson 7 10 12 ... M Richards 4 030(1- CHRISTCHURCH (396) (C) J S Moore 8 10 12 ... ... M Richards 5 040-40/ CDDLE CHERRY (642) C Barvet 8 10 12 ... ... ... B Fenton 6 P/16-4 SPRING SAINT (13) (C) S Earle 9 10 12 ... ... ... ... M Williamson 7 2/P040 SANDRIFT (26) Miss A Statest 9 10 7 ... ... ... ... G Tormey - 7 declared - BETTING: 4-9 Edmond, 5-1 Danger Flyton, 7-1 Spring Saint, 12-1 Christichurch, 16-1 Boulavard Bay, 50-1 others

FORM VERDICT

This should go to EDMOND, who looks an existing staying prospect and will appreciate this stiff track and today's ground. Danger Flynin looks the obvious alternative for those want-

1.30 PLUM PUDDING CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,400 added 2m 5f

26:33 DIDDY RYMER (30) (D BF) Ms S Smith 8 \*0 B. Mr J Crowley (7)
03:45 CASTLE SECRET (24) D Burchell 2: 0 B. ......... J Burchell
PFFF-0 PURE AIR (12) Ms C Hicks 6 \*0 B. ......... J Mogford (7)
516640 PERSISTENCE PAYS (26) W G M Turner 4 \*10 5 ... J Power (7)

- 5 declared -BETTING: 13-6 Diddy Rymer, 9-4 Not Forgotten, 7-2 Castle Secret, 9-2 Persistence Pays, 50-1 Pura Air FORM VERDICT

On the pick of last season's form Castle Secret would win this, but he has been a long way below his best this time and DIDDY RYMER looks a much more solid alternative. She has been running well this season and is meeting Not Forgotten nce Pays on more than a stone better terms than she would in a handicap.

2.00 49'S LADBROKES MISTLETOE HAND-ICAP CHASE (D) £10,000 3m 1f F50P- SPARKLING CONE (225) (C) Miss V Williams 9 11 13....

1.00 HOLLY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 6f

FORM VERDICT Sparkling Come will appreciate the ground and has to be feared despite top weight and lack of a recent run. But he may just struggle to give 23to to MAJORS LEGACY, who will also reish the conditions and there is better to come from him as a stayer Name Of Our Father finally got his act together over ces in a weak contest at Luciow last week, but whether

2.30 LEVY BOARD SANTA CLAUS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m

04-013 DARK ROMANCE (31) (CD) Miss Z Davison 9 tl 0.G Bradley R BRYNKIR (14) D Muray Smith 4 to 12 \_\_\_\_\_ D Gallagher 40006 BUKEHORN (14) Mrs P Sly 7 to 12 \_\_\_\_\_ W Merston U- CARRINGTON HOUSE (239) K Bailey 5 TO 12. ... W Williamson 29/4-P GENTRY (20) D VicCom 7 to 12 ...... \_\_\_\_ T J Marphy P. RICARDO (229) Mrs J Primari 4 10 12 .... . . . . . . . . . D Leahy 0 TRIBAL MOON (12) J Portman 5 10 12 . . . . A David 20-34 QUEEN'S RIDE (14) H Daly 5 10 7 . . . . S Wyssa 1-3 WILMOTT'S FANCY (28) (0) Miss V William's 6 10 7 . . S Kally (5)

- 14 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Queen's Ride, 4-1 Wilmott's Fancy, 11-2 Mithalt, Dark Romance, 7-1 Carrington House, 10-1 Sharpest, 18-1 others FORM VERDICT

A potentially hot novice hurdle where a decent case could A potentially hot novice furdle where a decent case could be made for at least half a dozen. Dank Romanos and Queen's. Ride, first and third in a similar race here lest month, set the standard, but are vulnerable to the less exposed numers from big stables. David Nicholson saddles the pick of the ex-Rat runners in Mithalk and Venetia Williams. Willmott's Fancy looks the best of those with hundles form. Both have good chances, but in an attempt to find the value, the suggestion is CAR-RINGTON HOUSE, who went very well for a long way in a soft ground bumper here before maxpenence got the better of ham. He has plenty of scope for hurdles.

3.00 CHRISTMAS CRACKER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m PP-P1P SIERRA BAY (21) (D) O Sherwood 8 ft 10 . J A McCarthy 426-4 MISTER ODDY (19) (D) J King 2 ft 8 . . . . T J Murphy 1/21-1 BUCKLAND LAD (14) (D) D Gresel 7 ft 3 . . . . . . B Fenton 111/2 MR SNAGGLE (57) (CD) S Earle 9 ft 0 . . . . . . . R Johnson BETTING: 7-4 Buckland Lad, 5-2 Slerra Bay, 3-1 Mr Snaggle, 4-1 Mrs-

The unerposed BUCKLAND LAD has been found another good opportunity and is readily preferred to Mr Snaggle. He is much respected on the evidence of his Chepstow second, but his near two-month absence since then is a little dis-

**FORM VERDICT** 

3.30 (CLASS H) \$1,500 added 2m 1 ITSOMEYNUE (25) (D) Wes V Walliams 5 11 11 . S Kelly (5) ACCADENIA D Murray Smith 5 11 4... ..... . Mr S Mouris (7)
P. HERBAL WISE (284) Miss A Stokell 6 11 4 ... . Ann Stokell MASTER RUSSELL C Barwell 4 11 4... ... B Fanton 0 MEND THE GATE (12) D Nicholson 5 ft 4 ......R Messey 00-0 FUTONA (12) Mrs T Pilongton 6 10 13 ... . ... ... .. .. V Stattery 0 LAMBRINI LADY (38) Mrs L Williamson 4 10 13 .Mark Smith (7) MESS SAVANA C Drew 5 10 13 ..... J Rys

- 11 declared -BETTING: 4-9 Insonlyme, 5-1 No Cuarter, 10-1 Needwood Lion, 12-1 Palindrome, 16-1 Mind The Gate, 25-1 Accademia, Master Russell, 33-1 others FORM VERDICT

The newcomers make immed appeal and this is likely to be tought out by ITSONLYME and No Quarter. The top weight won in the style of a decent bumper performer at Aintree and

■ Pride Of Brixton narrowly foiled Sihafi's attempt to record his 10th handicap win of the year at Wolverhampton yesterday. It means that Sihafi will now travel to Lingfield next Monday in a final attempt to set a new

### seat. The problem in the past far. in his 5-0 whitewash of has been trying to keep him Graeme Dott. Star cast at Olympia

will be led by Pessoa

RODRIGO PESSOA, who holds both the World Cup and the individual world championship title, will be a star attraction at the Olympia Show Jumping Championships which begin their five-day run today.

The gifted Brazilian underlined his talents with victory at the World Games in October where the four finalists rode their own and each other's to extend his lead when he horses. Two of the riders defeated by Pessoa - Germany's Franke Sloothaak and Willi Melliger, of Switzerland, - will also be competing at the London show.

fers just under £230,000 in prize- anxious to earn his first points money, has attracted a far of the season with either classier field than any other British show this year - with 21 year Welham injured a tendon overseas competitors from 10 at Olympia and was out of accountries taking on 15 Britons. tion for eight months. He came Sloothaak, the former world back in sparkling form for The champion, will be joined by two other members of the winning German team from the when winning all three of the World Games - Ludger Beer- classes that he contested.

EQUESTRIANISM

BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY baum, the European champion.

and Lars Nieberg. Ireland's Trevor Coyle, the leader on the Western European League of the World Cup. will also be competing with Cruising. Coyle will be looking competes in the Traxdata World

Cup qualifier on Saturday. Michael Whitaker, currently lying in sixth place, is hoping to earn more points with Virtual Village Ashley on Saturday. As usual Olympia, which of His elder brother, John, will be Grannusch or Welham, Last Horse of the Year Show at Wembley in late September. FA crisis: Successors at game's governing body should refrain from deal-cutting and accept loss of 2006 World Cup

# Our incompetent influence-peddlers.

IT'S HARD to know which is the more scandalous aspect of the Wiseman/Kelly affair: the fact that senior English football administrators apparently found it necessary to mimic the kind of influence-peddling tactics traditionally associated with

spics, dagoes and wops, or the evidence that they turned out to be so humiliatingly bad at it. At least Keith Wiseman, who continues to deny that he was attempting to buy votes with the offer of "grants". may have stumbled across one important truth: Northern Ireland is these men should have no with gratifying wonderment to of prestige tournaments. And if and mirrors, but the trick forseeable future, then we can doesn't work with everyone.



not a Third World country. The truck with the kind of deal-cutting that leads to the acquisition this means no World Cup for the

WILLIAMS

hardly complain. The idea of England hosting

never seemed very realistic in the wake of Euro 96, despite the euphoria created by vested interests. The Lightning Seeds sang one song, but reality danced to a different drummer.

Does no one remember the huge blocks of vacant seats at many of the group matches, a phenomenon which contradicted the new image of the English football fan as a capand to make men of sound puccino-drinking connoisseur of the world game? At best, this suggested some kind of administrative incompetence. At worst it created the impression of rapacity combined with a lack of regard both for the players and for those spectators who would have filled the empty spaces with joy.

More seriously, did no one in a position of authority notice the

riot in Trafalgar Square after England had lost to Germany in a wonderful semi-final, and ponder its meaning? Even if we acdirt in Michael Atherton's pockcept that hooliganism is et at Lord's or with Nigel Hessociety's problem rather than lop's unprovoked assault on football's, the awakening of the Serge Blanco at the Parc des spectre of English game's murky past should have been Princes, but with the coldblooded reneging on that enough to curb the football es-tablishment's tendency to impledge to the old enemy, an act conducted during an unminuted exchange in some murky moderate self-congratulation

just a bit premature.

During yesterday's out-pouring of phone in outrage, the judgement feel that an immediate World Cup bid might be most appropriate comment in fact came from an English-All of which does not even take account of the FA's man, but a disinterested one. Keith Cooper, Fifa's director of promise to back Germany's candidacy in return for their communications, suggested support in the Euro 96 camthat among the bids for 2006 there might still be one from paign. Whatever the facts behind the breaking of that Brazil. If England was the crapromise, only our essential indle of football, then Brazil has sularity prevents us from apmore right than any to be con-

committee room.

preciating the disapproval that sidered the heart of the modern rose as if through a vacuum, it engendered elsewhere. English fair play died not with the hosted the tournament which the absence of competence at has won four times. What better use could there

be for the cash sloshing around Fifa's vaults that the restoration of the infrastructure of Brazilian football, with the aim of creating the conditions necessary for the holding of a World Cup? The Maracana has already been refurbished, but elsewhere there are vast crumbling concrete bowls which, properly rebuilt, would make marvellous arenas for the tournament – and they would still not be half big enough to contain all the Brazilians wanting to demonstrate their fervour.

As a football fan with a proper sense of history and romance, Graham Keliy would probably go along with that. For a man who

senior levels, he did a pretty good job for English football. He coped, however awkwardly, with the impossible job of officially acknowledging the tragedies of the late Eighties, and he nursed the modernisation of the fabric of the game in the years after the Taylor Report. He helped clear

the way for the inauguration of the Premier League, an inevitability which took place remarkable swiftly and efficiently (compare and contrast the wrangling over cricket's attempt to update its first-class structure). Until this week, the worst blot on Kelly's record was created by the FA's inability to confront the various bung scandals with any real clarity of

purpose or moral rigour

organisation's internal confusions began to emerge, staining many of its initiatives, such as the unnecessary sponsorship of the FA Cup, or the invention of something called "Green Flag Team England". Like Kelly's haircuts, the FA's philosophical stance represented an unconvincing at-

tempt to keep up.
But football will spend the next 10 years dealing with men such as Rupert Murdoch and Mark McCormack, whose only interest in the game's health is financial and whose command of tactics and strategy is beyond that of any politician. For football, those 10 years promise to be a period of unparalleled prosperity. After Wiseman and Kelly, the FA had better get it-

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gwa nition (See Egy Time)

## Worst job in football' attracts no interest

Reform is needed if the FA is to overcome disinterest and appoint the right people. By Glenn Moore

THE FIRST day of campaigning per cent are needed to do so to opened yesterday in traditional fashion, with various candidates for the posts of Football Association chairman and chief executive queuing up to express a total lack of interest in the two positions.

executive of the Premier mix of pomp and politics. There League and a contender for is a lot of glad-handing of dig-Graham Kelly's vacant position. nitaries but also the exercise of was the first off the mark as he power within Uefa and Fifa. It declared his heart belonged at would make sense to divide the Anfield, where he is chief executive. Greg Dyke, a favoured outsider, followed quickly, accompanying his statement of disinterest with the remark: "I can't think of a worse job, the way the FA is currently structured and organised. I agree with David Mellor when he said: if ever there was an organisation where lots of men in blue blazers needed to fall on their swords, it's the FA."

Parry, though using more moderate language, said much the same, and this is at the nub of any consideration of what happens next. The FA, though it has become far more proactive in recent years, remains hamstrung by an archaic bureaucracy in which the Royal Air Force, New Zealand and Cambridge University each have a voice but Manchester United do not. This is because the FA Council, which includes representatives of all the former among its 93 members but not United, is the ultimate

decision-making body. The FA's reformers, and there are more than might be imagined, want to replace rule by oligarchy with that of an executive board. The new chief executive would thus not be an all-powerful US-style commissioner but the head of a stream- take charge of individual delined board which would have partments dealing with, for exthe power and ability to react quickly to events But there is one fundamental problem. First the FA turkeys have to vote for Christmas. That 70 with such issues but they are

push through reform does not

there may never be a better opportunity, there could be more than two posts on offer. The chairman's job, which at pre-Rick Parry, the former chief sent is not salaried, is a curious post, with someone like Sir more ambassadorial aspects. as he is with the World Cup bid, and a political animal dealing with the internal politics of the FA and the external ones at Uefa and Fifa.

The day-to-day administra-

This would require a prime ministerial figure considering the broad vision - possibly the same political animal mentioned above - and a Prescott figure behind him dealing with the nuts and bolts. Others could ample, television, foreign players and players' contracts, and the England set-up. There are already committees dealing

Should this be achieved, and

tion of the game is at present dealt with by committee. There are so many of these it is difficult to keep count, and most are far too big. Trying to keep abreast of them all and both implement and shape policy is the chief executive. A common complaint within the FA is the amount of time and ego-massaging required to pass the most trifling matters.

A better solution would be a cabinet operating on the same lines as that of the government. With a re-structuring of staff, and a co-opting of representatives of the PFA, the Football League and other relevant bodies as appropriate, decisions could be made with greater

speed and co-ordination.



leaving David Davies, who has check in this system would be a reformed FA Council, more representative of the modern



David Davies, the Football Association's Director of Public Affairs, is keeping quiet about his ultimate ambitions

unwieldy and not part of such an integrated structure. Which leads us to personnel There are plenty of candidates

for the figurehead, who should have the chance to make input as well. Sir Bobby and Gary Lineker are contenders but they are already involved in the 2006 bid. Bobby Robson, should he give up day-to-day coaching after his contract at Eindhoven expires in May, would be ideal.

The preferred choice for political chairman would be David Sheepshanks or David Dein. Both are effective in smokefilled rooms as well as on television. They are also independently wealthy, which may be a bonus. Either could combine this post with that of football's "prime minister". been coy on his ambitions, to take the John Prescott role. The game, which would have the power, in exceptional circum-

#### CANDIDATES FOR THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION'S TOP JOBS

Ipswich chairman, outgoing chairman of Football League Impressed many with his stewardship of the Football League, where he recently stepped down as chairman. Only a council member since 1997 but involved ber of the committee which investigated Wiseman's Welsh deal.

David Dein

Arsenal vice-chairman Brought Arsene Wenger to Arsenal and already an influential voice of football's new popularity but regarded, at Highbury, as a fan first and speculator second. From the modernising wing, joined council in 1995. Also on investigative committee.

Geoff Thompson Sheffield & Hallamshire FA Stepped up from vice-chairman to acting chairman in the wake of Tuesday's crisis. FA Council prominent representative of the council's bedrock, the county FAs. Plain-speaking and a JP. Third member of investigating group.

**David Richards** Sheffield Wednesday chairman The preferred choice of the Premier League two years ago, he came third behind Wiseman. Has remained low-profile since. though the regular turnover of managers at Hillsborough indi-cates a hard edge. Council member since 1994

> **Noel White** Liverpool director

The man who brought down Ter ry Venables as England manager and a powerful voice on the international committee. Originally involved with Altrincham bu now a key figure at Anfield, Coun cil member since 1976 and an FA vice-president. Qualified auditor and chartered accountant.

Ken Bates Chelsea chairman

Controversial chairman of Chelsea, now reaping rewards of years of work at Stamford Bridge. An outside choice though have been offered job of caretaker chairman for two years. Age 67. council member since 1992.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE

David Davies

As temporary chief, he has the chance to stake a powerful claim for the permanent position, Good on television, ambitious and energetic. he seeks to turn the crisis into a catalyst for change. Has enemies and was weakened by collaboration on Hoddle's diary. Would like to move on from press officer role but may settle for a

new trouble-shooting post. Rick Parry Anfield's chief executive has declared himself out of the running, many with his smooth handling of egos as the Premier League's first chief executive and knows the FA's weaknesses. May be hard to prise from Liverpool, where

Richard Scudamore Head-hunted to lead the Football League and already showing dynamism required at Lancast er Gate. Former referee who was working in business in USA when the League called. Would become a strong candidate if Sheep-

Former Blackburn winger who has turned the players' union into one of the game's most proactive and successful bodies. A good negotiator with the game at heart, but he may feel he is more influential where he is rather than be hamstrung by FA bureacracy. The FA may also blanch at his £350,000 salary.

Currently chief executive of the Premier League but under criticism for autocratic manner.

Peter Leaver

Lawyer and long-time Tottenham fan with a sharp mind. Greg Dyke Knowledge of television, football and business, he is well qualified. Currently on board of Manches-

ter United pic and believed to be

one of the doubters on the Sky

Sir Roland Smith An alternative outsider, he is a former Bank of England director, university professor and business consultant, who is also

## Kelly not likely to be short of work

BY GLENN MOORE

GRAHAM KELLY'S most likely response to his sudden unemployment will be to use the free time to fit in a few games of football - but he is not likely to be out of work for long.

It is hard to imagine him forging a career for himself in the media – though if Neil Hamilton can become a miniscope - but his telephone is sure to ring with attractive offers from within the game.

Kelly has spent a lifetime in football administration, during which he built up an enviable range of contacts around the world. The only question is whether he now uses those as a poacher or gamekeeper.

Several sports bodies could make use of his contacts and

Football-based ones like the Football Trust are a possibility, as are more general organisations such as the Sports Council. He could also move into spected within Uefa and by doing the honourable thing in immediately resigning, may not be tarnished by the present

scandal for long. A more lucrative alternative would be an appointment with one of the clubs, similarly, Rick Parry's chief executive role at Liverpool. While he may be unlikely to take such a position, he should be in demand as a consultant.

Sports marketing companies such as ISL, who hired Glen Kirton after he had organised Euro 96, may also be interested in Kelly's contacts and number-crunching abili-

The most romantic thought is that Kelly could put together a consortium to revive Blackpool, the team he followed and once represented 🗫

albeit at Third XI level. The club have now fallen on hard times. Their historic ground is in a dilapidated state while their administration is still recovering from the prison sentence imposed on the owner and former chairman Owen Oyston, who remains a director at the club.

Jimmy Armfield, a friend and FA consultant, could be enlisted in this "tangerine dream" which would see Kelly's Heroes returning to a top flight they left 20 years ago.

Maybe presenting Sir-O-Six is more likely.

## Setback to the strong case for a benevolent dictatorship

APPROACHING THE 21st cen- transmuted into a 50-strong tury, English football cannot FA Council. The Council now quite decide whether to be run as a genuine democracy or a benevolent dictatorship. Does it want key decisions made slowly and laboriously, perhaps by a broad parliament representing all levels of the sport, or a single dynamic executive in the style of the NFL's Commissioner? At present, for better or for worse, the governing body is run under the former system. Veering too far away from it is what has landed the Football Association's Keith Wiseman and Graham Kelly in uncomfortably hot water.

A century ago, the single committee running the FA since its earliest days was comprises 91 members, with representatives ranging from Ken Bates and David Dein of the Premier League to Lt Cdr PJW Danks of the Royal Navy. Canada and the West Indies have lost their membership, but Australia and New Zealand remain, as do Oxford and Cambridge University, and the Independent Schools, Crucial to the structure is that every one of the 43 county football associations are represented.

As well as 73 members drawn from these different bodies, there are an assortment of vice-presidents and life vicepresidents, the latter group tending to comprise some of the

sport's more senior citizens: one of their number has been Chamber at Lancaster Gate -

a Council member since 1954. In the handsome Council currently out of use because of the fire there earlier this year - the newest members sit in the way forward as the years wear on or the others die off. Every member sits on at

least two committees, of which

there are 20 in total, covering

all aspects of the game: disci-

plinary, commercial, refereeing.

tee, which on Monday formally expressed its lack of confidence in Wiseman, the FA These then are the "gentle-

men in blue blazers", some of whom David Mellor of the Government's Task Force suggested might be ripe for a cull. (How many are actually gentlemen is not known; the one who certainly is not is Miss Julie Hemsley, representing the Women's Football Alliance) Mellor wants "a proper ad-

11-strong executive commit-

high-profile financially driven game". The FA now has a turnover of £60m and a full-time staff of 150; the chairman, unlike the chief executive, does not receive a salary, despite Wiseman's attempt to award himself £75,000 a year, which was turned down by the Council

Other important officers include the company secretary Nic Coward, who is a legal expert, a commercial director director of finance and the director of public affairs, David Davies, all of whom will take on ministration for football... ap- added responsibilities to fill And the greatest of these is the propriate to a modern, the void left by Kelly's depar-

parliament with a more dynamic style of leadership. By Steve Tongue vamped technical department under Howard Wilkinson, now including a whole raft of regional development officers. Modernisation in those de-

partments has occurred as a result of recommendations in the FA's 1991 "Blueprint for the Future of Football". Attempts at reforming the Council have been less successful, for the same reason that turkeys do not vote in favour of Christmas. As long ago as 1968, the original Government-sponsored Chester Report suggested a compulsory retirement age of

If the Football Association is to progress it may have to replace its broad 70 and felt it was "extraordinary" that members reaching 75 should be promoted to become life vice-presidents. "The FA should encourage younger men to participate in the administration of the game." the report said, adding: "A Council of 84 members, though excellent for broad discussion and for representing the interests of the game in every part of the country, cannot be an effective policy-making body."

Like many of the report's recommendations, the introduction of an age limit was ignored, while the number of councillors has actually increased. The more recent Blueprint balked at reforming the Council, but wanted the exec-

utive committee to assume greater powers; the consensus is that this has not happened, despite the presence on it of big hitters like Wiseman and the FA's vice-chairman Geoff Thompson, Bates, Dein, David Richards, of Sheffield Wednesday, and the former Football League chairman, David Sheepshanks, Part of the reason is that all major decisions still have to be ratified either at the FA's AGM in June or at one of the two-monthly Council meetings.

Gentlemen in blue blazers or loose canons firing off £3rd; loans? Wiseman's piece of Welsh wizardry may eventually lead to a system of government somewhere between the two.

ENDENT

# The high stakes of political

Winning friends and influencing people often takes priority over events on the pitch. By Nick Harris

ball officials will go to secure the paigners in the past year. 2006 World Cup finals should turn to page 33 of Glenn Hod-die's World Cup diary. '[The Football Association]

football

have to think commercially and itically when deciding on "endly fixtures," wrote Hoddle, referring to arrangements that were made to play Saudi Arabia at Wembley on 23 May this year. England's 2006 campaign director, Alec McGivan, was "keen on the Saudis as opponents", according to Hoddie, because he wanted to guarantee their support for England's bid to stage the 2006 tournament. When Hoddle later asked for the date to be brought forward for footballing reasons his request, he said, almost caused a full-scale row between our two countries". After protracted high-level

meetings between British and adi diplomats in Saudi Ara-bar the fixture was left to stand and McGivan could relax, knowing he had placated Prince Sultan Bin-Fahd, the son of the Saudi ruler King Fahd and - as the deputy president of the Saudi Football Federation – an influential man.

If this seems an extreme way to go about securing major football tournaments, it at least outs into some kind of context exclutive and the unanimous vote of no confidence in its chairman, Keith Wiseman.

Whether or not their promised gift of £3.2m to the Football Association of Wales not have a favoured candidate for was made on the condition that the FAW supported Wiseman's attempt to become a Fifa vicechairman - and we will not know until the FA publishes a full account of its investigation into the matter - there can be how high the stakes are perceived to be to gain influence in world football.

Hoddle's book was co-written. incidentally, by David Davies, who has taken over the day-today running of the FA and knows a thing or two about the machinations of the game's politics.

ANYONE WHO doubts the the only alleged piece of barlengths to which English foot- gaining by English 2006 cam-According to a book co-written by the Wimbledon and Jamaica striker, Robbie Earle, the Jamaican football federation was promised a Wembley friendly against England for its side if it would lobby regionally for England's 2006 bid.

The deal had been agreed, according to Earle's book, One Love, "in a typical piece of bargaining at a meeting of Fifa representatives in Trinidad. Jamaica's vote was in return for a match that was sure to "big up" the Reggae Boyz' profile". The Jamaicans, said Earle, were not best pleased when the Wembley game failed to materialise.

Deals done unofficially, of course, always have the potential to backfire, as the FA is all too likely to become aware between now and March 2000, when Fifa's 24-strong executive committee will decide who will stage the 2006 World Cup.

It is well accepted in international footballing circles (England excepted) that England's bid to host Euro 96 was supported by several countries, notably Germany, on the tacit understanding that a German bid for the 2006 World Cup would be supported - and certainly not challenged by a rival bid - by the English. Fifa would the resignation on Tuesday of not comment on this arrange-Graham Kelly as the FA's chief ment yesterday, although one source within world football's was generally accepted.

Officially Uefa, European football's governing body, does 2006. "We will support all the bids from Europe," a spokeswoman said. Privately it is known that Lennart Johansson, Uefa's president, supports the German bid and will lobby relentlessly to secure for it the eight Fifa executive votes in Europe.

England's bid to secure the World Cup will not only have that hurdle to clear. Sepp Blatter, tactically backed by the English FA to become the new Fifa president this year is committed to giving the 2006 World Cup not to England or Ger-The Saudi incident was not many, but South Africa.



England's David Beckham (left) and Argentina's Diego Simeone clash in the second round of the World Cup in St Etienne in June. The two men are scheduled to meet again in club colours in March when Manchester United play Internazionale in the European Cup Reuters

## Inter obstacle for United

IF THIS finally turns out to be BY ADAM SZRETER Manchester United's season in the European Cup, nobody could say Alex Ferguson's side did not do it the hard way. After qualifying as runners-up from a Champions' League group containing Barcelona and Bayern Munich, they now face Internazionale of Milan, featuring one Ronaldo Luiz Nazario de Lima, in the quarter-finals in March.

As the winners of Group C, Inter will stage the second leg at San Siro on 17 March, after visiting Old Trafford for the first time in a competitive encounter governing body confirmed it on 3 March. Chelsea, Britain's only other remaining European representative, have Scandinavian opposition to overcome for the third time in defence of the Cup-Winners' Cup when they play Valerenga at Stamford Bridge on 4 March, with the second leg in Oslo a fortnight later

On paper at least, the task for Manchester United could hardly be tougher. Having drawn all four games against the Spanish and German giants, United know they will have to go one better against a club that lives up to its name with a squad that reads like a who's who of world football. Barring injury or illness, the game at Old Trafford will be Ronaldo's first in this country since scoring for Brazil against

England at Wembley in the 1995 Umbro Cup tournament.

Alongside him in attack is the French World Cup winner Youri Djorkaeff, while Roberto Baggio is a more than adequate reserve; Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole will have to find a way past the Nigerian Taribo West before they can test Italy's World Cup goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca:

**EUROPEAN CUP** 

Real Madrid (50) v Dvnamo Klev (Ukr)

Bayern Munich (Ger) v Kalserslautern (Ger)

Ties to be played 3 and 17 March

and, to add further spice to the

tie, in midfield there is Diego

Simeone, the Argentinian cap-

tain who was involved in the in-

cident that led to United's David

Beckham being sent off in the

World Cup match in St-Etienne.

indifferent league form that

prompted the appointment of a

new coach, Mircea Lucescu, at

the start of this month and,

while it is 30 years since Unit-

ed's one and only European

Cup triumph, Inter have to go

back even further to 1965 for the

United can point to Inter's

second of their two consecutive titles. Also in United's favour is that the Italians are scheduled to meet Juventus the weekend before the first leg and Milan just before the second.

"It's a tough draw and it's a great draw in one sense because of Inter Milan's reputation," Martin Edwards, United's chief executive, said.

"They have arguably the world's best player in Ronaldo,

**EUROPEAN QUARTER-FINAL DRAWS** 

EUROPEAN

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Chelsea v Valerenga (Nor)

Lazio (It) v Panionkos (Gr)

teks Varazdın (Crça) v M

Ties to be played 4 and 18 Morch

agree this is the most glam-

orous match of the draw and I

believe one of the two clubs will

reach the final," he said. "Our

president, Massimo Moratti,

will be very happy to face Man-

chester United. He's always

been a fan of the Red Devils. It's

just a shame that Eric Cantona

is not playing any more and so

ASRIOWAL,
T Bertram (Bournalle), G Cover ( navant); J Evennett, S Humphries, D
Mathems, S Triggs, P Wickee (all Cancerbury); A Humphriey, C Parnham (Cannock); M Taylor (Harvestehuder, Hamburg); A Simons (Southgate); S Cordon (Beeston); J Ebsworth, D Haydon

ICE HOCKEY

SENONDA SUPERLEAGUE (Tuesday): London Knights 3 Norungham Panthers 6. NHLL: Carolina 3 Edmonton 0: Pittsburgh 3 Tampa Bay 2 (ot): Dallas 7 St Louis 3. NY Islanders 1 San Jose 0.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS Treble Chance: 24pcs £1,837.95; 23pts £27.50, 22 £3.10. Half-time results: 21pts (max) £32.45. Four draws £3.35. Mine homes (pad on eight homes) £273.90. Pive aways £291.55.

lle), G Cover ( Ha-S Humphries

cannot take part in these matches."

Meanwhile, the holders. Real Madrid, meet the dark horses, Dynamo Kiev, who will be hoping that talk of the sale of their strikers Andriy Shevchenko and Serhiy Rebrov during the Ukrainian winter break remains nothing more than speculation.

Juventus, the 1996 winners. have been installed as favourites

**UEFA CUP** Marseilles (Fr) v Celta Vigo (Sp) Atletico Madrid (Sp) v Roma (It)

Ties to be played 2 and 16 March.

but every team in the last eight and will fancy their chances of is going to cause you problems. It's going to be tough, and being drawn against the Greek it really is an exciting prospect." outsiders. Olympiakos, and The Inter vice-president, Githere is an all-German quarterannaria Visconte, concurred, "I final for the second season running between the Bundesliga

> ons, Bayern Munich. Chelsea, having already beaten Helsingborg of Sweden and FC Copenhagen in earlier rounds, must now get past the Norwegian Cup holders to keep such impressive style.

champions, Kaiserslautern, and

the current league leaders and

three-times European champi-

alive hopes of winning the last ever Cup-Winners' Cup competition. They have fond memories of Scandinavia, having won the trophy in Stockholm earlier this year with a 1-0 victory over VfB Stuttgart, but Gianluca Vialli's men will be less keen for a repeat of their last trip to Norway, when they faced Tromso in sub-zero temperatures on a snow-covered pitch.

Nevertheless, Chelsea will be happy to have avoided the favourites, Lazio, who have the Chilean striker Marcelo Salas among their expensivelyassembled squad. The mouthwatering prospect of a May final at Villa Park against the Italian Cup holders, who meet Panionios of Athens, remains a distinct possibility.

The Uefa Cup has become an exclusively Latin affair, ina fourth final in a row after volving clubs from just three countries, Atletico Madrid's tie with Roma, featuring the Brazilian internationals Juninho, Cafu and Aldair, will capture the imagination, but the eventual winner is just as likely to come from the meeting between a resurgent Marseilles, spearheaded by Fabrizio Ravanelli and captained by Laurent Blanc, and the Spaniards, Celta Vigo, who saw off both Aston Villa and Liverpool in

## Coventry to sign Aloisi for £650,000

HARD-UP Portsmouth are transferring the striker John Aloisi to Coventry City for a bargain 2650,000 at the start of their unpopular Christmas sale. The Australian forward, the scorer of 17 goals this season, had talks with the Sky Blues' manager, Gordon Strachan, last night and will complete the formalities today.

The Fratton Park club will receive only around £500,000 while Aloisi's former club, Cremonese in Italy, will receive the £200,000 they are still owed by Pompey when they signed him 18 months ago.

Pompey are losing £40,000 a veek and their chairman, Martin Gregory, has placed all play ers on the transfer list in a bid to ease a crippling wage bill in excess of £3m a year.

Liverpool are set to signing the 33-year-old German defender, Thomas Helmer. The Bayern Munich man is believed to have been offered a six-month contract, with the option of a further year. The deal is unlikely to be completed in time for Helmer to play in the home game against Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday.

Two defenders, Olexandr Holovko of Dynamo Kiev and Salernitana's Rigobert Song. and the Monaco goalkeeper Tony Silva all had trials at Liverpool's training ground yesterday. The Anfield manager. Gerard Houllier, is also close to signing the 17-year-old Icelandic defender Endredre Sigurdsson from KR Reykjavik.

The Blackburn Rovers manager, Brian Kidd, will today make a final £4.5m bid for Ashley Ward before switching his transfer sights to Matt Jansen, who would be available at a sim-

ilar price from Crystal Palace. Wolverhampton Wanderers have placed their highly-rated defender Dean Richards on the transfer list at his own request. Derby County have taken the Finnish international striker Jonatan Johansson on a threeday trial from Rangers with a view to a permanent transfer.

Graham Allner has resigned after a 15-year reign as the manager of the Conference club, Kidderminster Harriers.

#### TODAY'S NUMBER

200,000 The number of Hong

Kong dollars (£16,000) that apprentice jockey Kwok Ting accepted to fix two races in 1996. He was sentenced to six months in gaol yesterday.

A doping committee of Track and erning body, has cleared the sus-per sprinter Dennis Mitchell of allegations relating to an out-of-competition drug test last spring. Mitchell had been suspected of taking hormones to boost muscle growth after his sample had showed abnormally high testosterone levels. A spokesman for the International Amateur Athletics Federation, who originally suspended Mitchell, confirmed yesterday that the verdict means the American is now clear to compete internationally as well as

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Schladming ..80% High runs good 50 100

..85% Firm packed

30 50

50 120

...25% High slopes only 0 40 02.12 -7C Changeable

Great early season 70 140 14.12 2C Changeable

180 215 14.12 -6C

20 40 09.12 -20

80 185 14,12 -4C Sunny

ANDORRA

AUSTRIA

Whiscler ....

FRANCE

TALY

Bormio

NORWAY

SWITZERLAND

UNITED STATES

MEN'S WORLD CUP (Bradislava): Lead-ing positions after 20 km: 1 P Rostovt-sev (Rus) 52min 25.0sec (2 penalty loss after the shooting): 2 V Hietalahri (Fin) 52:33.4 (1): 3 R Cattarnussi (Ir) 52:48.3 (2): 4 W ROSTMAN (Aut) 53:01.5 (2): 5 S Konovai-ov (Rus) 53:05.7 (2): 6 S Gilmsdaf (Nor)

The Chicago Cubs' right-hand pitcher, Steve Trachsel, has signed a new

53:08.8 (7): 7 R Poirce (Fr) 53:28.0 (2): 8 \$Rozhod (Rus) 53:42.6 (2): 9 F Luck (Ger) 54:05.2 (3): 10 O Ryzhenkov (Bu)54:21.6 [4]. World Cup standlags: 1 Rostovisev 87: 2 O E Rorndalen (Nor) 82.3 Poirce 75; 4 S Pischer (Ger) 74: 5 Luck 72.

Abraham Olano, the world time-tri-al and Tour of Spain champion, has signed with the ONCE team for the 1999 season, it was announced yes-terday. The Spaniard's new team-mates include his countrymen Mikel Parcabeita and David Erbergris and

## CYCLING

Zarrabeitla and David Echevarria and

Paul Lloyd, the new European ban

29.11 4C Cloudy

14.12 2C Changeable

11.12 1C Clearing

#### mandatory defence of his title against the former champion, John-ny Bredahl of Denmark, before 28 Hamburg); C Giles, D Woods and i Waugh (Reading). D Luckes and

SPORTING DIGEST

February next year. Charlie Kane of Clydebank will defend his International Boxing Organisation Intercontinental welterweight title against London's Bernard Paul in Glas-

gow on 25 January.
PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (Durban, SA) IBO super-bantamweight title: 5 Ramon (SA) bt M Alidis (GB) ko 2nd.

### FOOTBALL

Eric Gerets, the coach of the Belgian champions, Club Bruges, yesterday signed a three-year deal to coach PSV Eindhoven. The former PSV defender will take over from Bobby Robson at the end of this season.

GOLF 1999 SOUTH AFRICAN TOUR SCHED-ULE: 14-17 Jan South African PGA Cham-pionship: 21-24 South African Open; 28-31 Payers' Championship: 4-7 Feb Di-mersion Data Pro-Am; 11-14 South African

Masters: 18-21 Royal Swazi Sun Open. HOCKEY

1999 ENGLAND SENIOR SOLIAD: B Barnes, M Kochar, 5 Mason, M Pearn, J Wyatt (all Reading): B Crutchley, J Halls, M Johnson, J Lewis, J Pidcock,

VERNONS Treble Chance: 24pts 6687.85, 23pts £9.75, 22 £2.30. 2ETTERS Treble Chance: 24pts £125.45, 23pts £2.75, Four aways £8.20, Eight homes £376.40, Easy six £7.55, Ad draws Treble Chance: 24pts £3.00, Lucky Numbers 15, 25, 24, 18, 4, 29 BRITTENS Treble Chance: 24pts 885.00; 23pts £2.00. Four draws £1.20. Five aways £7 80. Eight homes £13 50

(East Grinstead): **B Garrard** and NS (Teddington): **D Hall** (Guildford) Henley Royal Regatta yesterday announced that £350,000 of its an-ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT SOLIAD: S Ashdown, R Todd, H Hoskin (Reading): T Bertram (Bourmalle), G Cover ( Ha-

British Union of Rowing.

SAILING lsabelle Autissier's 60-foot yacht was knocked down by an errant wave on

Tuesday in the southern Indian Ocean, but the French sailor still kept her grip on the lead in the second leg of the Around Alone race. Autissier, the lone woman in the race. holds a 29-mile lead over Marc Thiercelin, also of France.

#### SKIING

Hermann Maier, the Austrian Olympic gold-medal skier, is severing his ties with Bern Pansold, a for-mer East German doctor convicted of administering performance-en-hancing drugs to athletes. Maier denles any involvement with banned substances, saying that he had hired Pansold privately as a performance analyst.

The Canadian downhiller Ed Podivinsky suffered a potentially seasonending knee injury yesterday during practice for the weekend's back-to back World Cup races at Valgarde-na. Italy. The 28-year-old has suspected ligament damage.

#### SNOOKER

IRISH OPEN (Dublin) First round (Eng unless stated): 5 Lee br O Hann (Aus) 5-0. B Jones bt N Bond 5-1: J Higgins (Scol bit T Knowles 5-3: R Poherty (Irt) bt G Greene 5-4: P Ebdon bt J White 5-4: P Danies (Wal) bt J Wattona (Thai) 5-4. Second rounds M Williams (Wal) bt G Dott (Scol 5-0: K Docherry (Irl) bt B Jones 5-2: 5 Lee bt J Higgins (Sco) 5-3: J Parrot bt M Couch 5-4.

#### SQUASH SUPER LEAGUE CUP Hirst round: Manchester Northern 3 UWIC Cardiff 0; Hallamshire 3 Chichester 0; Capital One Nortingham 3 Edgbaston Priory 0, TSM Duffield bt Bishops Stortford w/o.

TABLE TENNIS

EUROPEAN NEED'S LEAGUE (Maidenhead) First round: England 4 Czech Republic 2 Englands in Syed bit Pavella 21-16 21-10: A Petry lost to P Korbel 22-20 16-21 15-21 C Prean bit J Pachv 21-17 21-12: Prean and Petry lost to Norbel and Plachy 16-21 20-22; Syed bit Korbel 21-13 17-21 21-13; Prean bit Pavella 21-14 14-21 21-17

Britain, the reigning champions, made a good start at the European Men's Team Championship at Montecatini. Italy, yesterday, by beating Sweden 2-1 in their opening group match. Chris Wilkinson won both his ingles and the deciding doubles with Worthing's Martin Lee, Bjorn Rehn-quist put Sweden ahead when he beat Lee in the first of the two singles but Wilkinson levelled the match when Wilkinson and Lee bear Loven and Johan Landsberg to seal the winning start. Britain now meet Italy in their second group match, either today or tomorrow. Spain, the Czech Republic and Bulgarla are in the other group

#### TODAY'S FIXTURES

for the title on Saturday.

FOOTBALL **PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division:** Sunderland v Manchester Utd (7.0) *(a*1

**ONE-DRY TOUR MATCH:** Prime Minister's KI v England (12.0am) (at Canberra).

OTHER SPORTS

**EQUESTRIANISM:** International Show

SWIMMING: British Winter N Championships (Glasgow, to 20 L SNOOKER; Irish Open (Dubin).

#### YESTERDAY

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Leeds 1 Blackburn 0. Second Division: Rotherham 1 Wrednam 2. Third Division: Carlisle 1 Halifax 2; Chester 0 Scunthor-pe 0; Darlington 1 Hull 1; Hartlepool 3 Rochdale 3.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION bione Fulham O Chariton 1. Post-ASIAN GAMES (Bangkok) Semi-final: Kuwait 3 Thailand 0: Iran 1 China 0. INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY (Johannesburg): South Africa 2 (McCarthy 40, 74) Egypt 1 (H Hassan 34).

#### TUESDAY

FA CUP Second-round replays: Brent-toro 2 Oldham 2 (after extra time; Old-ham win 4-2 on penalties and are at home to Chelsea in third round), Bristol Rovers to Chelsea in third round), Bristol Rovers 5 Exeter O (Rovers away to Rotherham in third round); Leyton Orient 2 Kingston-san I (Orient away to Southport in third round); Manchester City 1 Darlington O (act. Manchester City away to Wimbledon in third round); Plymouth 3 Wycombe 2 (Plymouth at home to Derby in third round); Rotherham 4 Rochdale O (Rother-ham at home to Bristol Rovers in third

#### FOOTBALL RESULTS round), Rushden 4 Doncaster 2 (Rushden at home to Leeds in third round); Wigan 0 Notts County 0 (aet; Notts County win 4-2 on penalties and are cavay to Sheffield Northwood 2 Spalding Utd 1; Tooting & Mitcham 3 Chipstead 2. MICCIAIT 5 Cripsteau 2. UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Dhriston: Guiseley 0 Whitby 3: Runcorn 1 Lancast-er 2, Parst Division: Burscough 1 Droyis-

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION: Sunderland 2 Crystal SCOTTISH LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION: Stenhousemuir 0 Brechin 1. FOOTBALL CONFERENCE: Barrow 0

Postponed: Bromley v St Albans, Second Division: Leighton 4 Marlow 2. Post-poned: Banstead v Whenhoe: Barking v Metropolitan Police; Third Division: Metropolitan Police: Third Division:
Lewes 9 Clapton 0. Postponed: East Thurrock v Camberley. League Cup second
round replay: Aldershot 5 Chertsey 0.
Taird round: Postponed: Barton v
Borenan Wood: Mairenhead v Slough; Sutron Urd v Basingstoke. Puma Cup second round: Enfield 1 Bishop's Stortford
0, Urbndge 0 Hitchin Town 2. Postponed:
Berkhamsted v Aylesbury. Chesham v Dagenham & Redbridge; Dulwich Hamlet v
Hampton: Vandanal Trophy second
round: Postponed: Thame v Chalfont St
Peter.

FA CARLSBERG VASE Third-round re-plays: Tow Law Town 3 Workington 4.

er 2. Parst Divisions Burscough 1 Droylsden 3: Great Harwood 1 Ashton Utd 1;
Matlock 2 Harrogate Town 5. Postponed: Stockshridge v Farsley Celts. Challenge Cup second round: Worksop 1
Frickley 3. Second-round replay: Wirsford 2 Witton 2. Unifilia First Division
Cup second round: Lincoln Utd 0 Huchrail 4. Postponed: Eastwood Town v Bradford Park Avenue. President's Cupsecond round: Postponed: Altrincham
v Leigh RMI.
D. MORTENS 3. EASSUE CUP-Block RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division:

DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP First DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP First round second legs. Nunearon 1 Arherstone 3 (agg. 2-5); Baldock 0 Raunds 2 (agg. 1-5); Ning's Lynn 2 Boston Utd 1 (agg. 2-6), Postpomed: Gresley Round: Bashley 1 Weymouth 1: Bath City 0 Winney 0; Dorchester 4 Newport (loW) 2; Torbridge 0 Cambridge City 2. Postpomed: Folsestone v Hastings; Grantham v Rochwell; Halesowen Town v Biston.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE CUP First round: Mossley 0 Atherton Col-lieries 1. Second round: Glossop 3 Chea-dle 2; Prescot Cables 1 Coine 0. PEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: BAT 1 Eastleigh 2. League Cop second round

## first leg: Wimborne 4 Thatcham 0. Second round second leg: Postponed: Newbury v Bournemouth: Lymington & New Milton v Brockerburst Wimborne v

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Premie **Division:** Deal 0 Sheppey 0; Faversham 0 Erith Town 1, Slade Green 5 Whitstable 0. UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE Eastbourne Urd v Largrey Sports: Horsham Y WACA v Ringmer; Portfield v Pagham; Chichester v Wick.

#### SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Di-

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN ARROTT INSTRANCE NORTHERS
LEAGUE First Division: Guisborrugh 1
West Auckland 2; South Shields 1 Seanam
Red Star 1. Postponed: Chester-le-Street
v Shidon, Consert v Newcastle Blue Scar;
Easington v Billingham Synthonia; Jarrow
v Penrith; Marske v Stockton.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Pro Division: Fakenham 1 Lowestoft 1. Post-poned: Great Yarmouth v Stowmarket poned: Great Yarmouth v Stowmarket; Maldon v Newmarket; Gorleston v Drss. League Cup Second round: Post-poned: Halstead v Feli-stowe. League Cup second round replay; Histon 6 War-

### INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND AL-

MORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE

CUP Third round: Armthorp Welfare 2 Tatcaster O, Denaby 3 Sheffield O; Malr-by Main 1 Ossert Albion 7: Posspoued: Arnold v Harrogare Railway: Buxton v North Fernby; Ossett Town v Hallam; Sel-by v Pontefract; Thackley v Garforth PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Grimsby Yown 2 West Bromwich Albion 2 Second Division: Bradford City 2 Lin-coln City 1; Scarborough 1 Blackpool 1. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Queen's Park Rangers 2 Tottenham 0; Bournemouth 1 Cheisea 2. THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Third round: Crystal Palace 1 Tranmere Rowers 0 (at Crawley Rown), Cambridge Utd 1 Ipswich Town 1: Milhwall 2 Reading 0 Postponed: West Bromwich Albion v Nor-

tingham Forest FRENCH LEAGUE First Division: Mecz

Hertha Berlin 1 SC Freiburg 0 DUTCH CUP Second round: Excelsion

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GOOCH'S RALLYING CALL P25 • RICHARD WILLIAMS ON WEMBLEY'S DOGS OF YORE P24

# Blair backs faltering 2006 bid

ENGLISH FOOTBALL launched a huge face-saving operation yesterday to convince the world it is still fit to host the 2006 World Cup finals. Support for England's bid was led by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who did not comment on the events that saw the resignation of the FA's chief executive, Graham Kelly, very strong one. It is a very strong one indeed. If there is to be a bid from this part of the

FOOTBALL

By NICK HARRIS

and away the best and we will keep on fighting the case for it." The Prime Minister's comments came on the same day that the Football Association of Wales confirmed that £3.2m of on Tuesday but said: "As for our FA funds promised to it by bid in 2006, believe me it is a Kelly and FA chairman Keith Wiseman - who has refused to resign over the affair - would have been "a gift" that would never have needed repaying.

"The money was a gift to the football community of Wales." John Hughes the president of

He denied allegations that a condition for receiving the money was that its payment would secure Welsh support for Wiseman's bid to become a vicepresident of Fifa, world football's governing body.

He added, however: "We said in order that the FA have a strong case for their World Cup bid for 2006 it would be good for

What we've done is completely above board."

The Welsh football authorities vere told last Friday that the £3.2m would not be paid as the gift had not been sanctioned by the FA's finance committee. It will now receive £900,000 over three years instead of the £3.2m over six to eight years, according to Hughes.

A spokesman for Fifa said the affair should not unduly damage England's bid to host the 2006 event. "It is obviously primarily an internal matter for

the English FA and it is up to them to put their house in order. Our partners around the world are associations, not individuals. Most institutions have turmoil from time to

He added that bids for 2006, in any case, will be judged not only on the input of national associations, but also on governments, police forces, telecommunications companies, broadcasters and everyone who might be involved in stag-

The Prime Minister's support in the FA. "If I was a German came in Parliament yesterday as he was due to question the Sir Bobby Charlton, in Sports Minister, Tony Banks, on the expensive globetrotting in support of England's bid that he

bring the tournament to this country. He chose instead to steer a diplomatic course and support the bid. Banks himself admitted that Germany, another country hop-

has undertaken as part of the

£9m, three-year campaign to

ing to host the 2006 event,

would be happy with the crisis

I would be delighted with all the speculation" he said.

Bangkok to promote England's 2006 bid at the Asian Games, said: "I don't think it makes any difference to us, to be honest. 'We know what we're doing,

we have a good bid. If there are problems internally with the Football Association, we have to step back and just let it un-

Sir Geoff Hurst, whose hattrick won the World Cup last said: "It is unfortunate but I don't think it will have any long-term effect. I am confident that once these events are over. there will be no damage."

Alec McGiven, the England 2006 bid director, said: "We're determined to prove to the world that England will provide the best venue for the tournament. We have a very strongcase and have no intention of being deflected from it."

The FA succession issue. page 28

## world then the British bid is far Sampdoria bend rules to help Platt

SAMPDORIA ARE confident By MARK PIERSON they can overcome the technical problems threatening their proposed appointment of David Platt as their team coach.

The former England international's appointment is expected to be formally announced at a press conference in Genoa today attended by both the club president, Enrico Mantovani, and Platt himself. Platt will take over from Luciano Spalletti who was sacked last Sunday following Sampdoria's 5-2 away defeat against Lazio that left the club just one point clear of the relegation zone.

Under the Italian football federation's regulations, however, Platt is not permitted to coach a Serie A side because he lacks the necessary coaching permit. But it appears that Sampdoria will get around Ardemagni. this problem by appointing the 59-year-old Giorgio Veneri Veneri, who travelled to Genoa yesterday to supervise an afternoon training session, has had extensive lower-division experience, having coached and 1995. "He may well be the the Serie C sides Leffe and Prato.

The idea, however, has not met with universal approval. The former Italian national team coach, Azeglio Vicini, currently the president of the Italian Coaches' Association. said that "Platt was in no way qualified to coach the Genoa club. He's not even qualified to coach the reserve side... according to the rules, there is no way that a category three on Sunday.

coach can coach the Sampdo-

ria first team." Platt's current position as the assistant to the English Football Association's technical director. Howard Wilkinson, may entitle him to a "category three" Italian permit. But Platt would need a "category one" permit to coach the first team.

Despite the negative opinion expressed by Vicini, it is understood that Sampdoria will find a way around this bureaucratic problem. A similar problem faced the former Roy Hodgson when he took

Blackburn Rovers manager over Internazionale in 1995 and was resolved by Hodgson being appointed "technical director", with the Serie A licence being held by his assistant Giovanni Platt's appointment has,

however, met with the approval players, some of whom played alongside him during his fouryear spell with Bari, Juventus and Sampdoria between 1991 right man. He's a former Sampdoria player, he was a great player and he knows his football," said the defender Marco Franceschetti. "He comes here at a difficult moment, a time when sadness and resignation need to be chased out of our dressing-room... we'll welcome him warmly."

If the appointment is made today, Platt's first match will be against second-placed Milan

Thailand's Natee Thongsukkew (left) and Khaled Shzadah battle for the ball during Kuwait's 3-0 victory in the Asian Games football semi-finals in Bangkok yesterday

# No.3796 Thursday 17 December

- Treatment for the ropy hip. say? (13)
- 10 Detail from note spotted, read aloud (7)
- runs (4) 13 Press for entry (5)
- 14 Car's divine, not half (4) 17 Fits chairs (7)
- 18 Occasion for honouring titled person (not king)
- 19 Paper thrown around re- 3 treats, cultivated areas 4
- 22 Disease, advanced after joint of meat, it's said
- 24 Vessels exporting British cereal (4)
- 25 Fit springs, primary component of mattress-
- 26 Soldier's reduced quarter (4)
- 11 Lethargic politician, one in grip of liquor (7)
  12 Declare? Some crave
  29 Offensive old male engaged in racket (7)
  30 Order lilies on King's
  - 31 Granadillas of Spain stir 20 Tries an effervescent us. spreading wildly (7,6) wine (7) DOWN
  - House fixes up society entertainer (7) (4.3)
    Veer. tack round lake (4) 23 Poet of Spain, say, in in-Zero points - wasted opportunities (7) Fish satisfies a party in
  - Head of porters after pound rise (4) 7 Teaching piano, produc-

## THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD



ing audible harmonic sounds (7)

When someone gives apparently, no tip? (8-5) Party constituent (9,4) Plant juice from American states (5) 16 Fish in crevice under opening of sluice (5)

21 Drink with more grated big cheese (7) 22 Short suit gent's slung

dex (7) Shrinkage: no good for varnish (4) 27 28 Country type, rustic? Not entirely (4)

## Ba gives Gullit a helpful hint

Ba is ready to cut his losses in Italy and bring some new year cheer to Newcastle United.

The 25-year-old international has confirmed that he has spoken to the Magpies' manager, Ruud Gullit, and admits that he would relish the chance to replace Keith Gillespie, who was sold to Blackburn yesterday, at St James' Park.

Ba, who has featured in seven of Milan's 13 games so far this season, said: "I know that Milan have already spoken to the English officials. I had a meeting with Gullit, and I would be prepared to leave in

accept Newcastle's overtures £2.35m is an indication of how will be welcomed by Gullit, but close he feels he is to striking

THE FRENCH winger Ibrahim BY ALAN NEXON

it appears that his efforts to get his man in time for Saturday's Premiership clash with Leicester may be doomed to failure. Ba, who joined Milan from Bordeaux in 1997, has played 38 times for the Serie A side, but

has struggled to command a regular place. "I'm down, how couldn't I be? I never play," he said. Ba has been rated at £4.5m by his club, but Newcastle are confident of securing his signature for

somewhere nearer £3.5m. Gullit has been on the player's trail for some time, and the sale of Gillespie - United's Ba's suggestion that he will only out-and-out winger - for

have been out of contract at the end of the season, was viewed by many as the man who would best provide the service for England captain, Alan Shearer, and recent £8m signing Duncan Ferguson.

Stephen Glass and the Peruvian Nolberto Solano are both promising wide players, but neither has Gillespie's pace. and Gullit's pursuit of Ba suggests that he has made a traditional winger an important part of his plans. If he does make the move to Tyneside, he will become the fifth French player in the last 12 months to cross the Channel.

But he will not have to set the world alight to improve on the distinctly limited success of his

a deal. Gillespie, who would compatriots during 1998. Only defender Laurent Charvet has forced his way into the first team on a regular basis, with the remaining four members of the Magpies' French foreign legion mustering just two competitive senior starts between them.

The former Auxerre striker Stephane Guivarc'h claimed both of those before ending his fleeting stay to join Rangers for £3.5m, while the ex-Sunderland goalkeeper Lionel Perez is languishing in the reserves after losing his place as Shay Given's deputy to Steve Harper.

The defender David Terrier was released last summer by the former Newcastle manager Kenny Dalglish following a six-month stay without a firstteam appearance.

Prosecutors yesterday notified Antonio Matarrese, a. Uefa vice president and a former head of the Italian football federation, that he is being investigated in connection with an inquiry into the use of performance enhancing substances in football in Italy.

Matarrese resigned his federation post following Italy's poor showing at the 1996 Enropean Championships. He is the latest in a series of top sports officials to be drawn into the scandal that bridduring the summer and led the resignation of the Italian Olympic Committee president, Mario Pescante, and the closing of the country's drug-testing laboratory.

## Britain urged to refuse Olympic bid

BRITAIN SHOULD not bid for the Olympics until the International Olympic Committee has proved the bidding process is free of corruption, a member of parliament said yesterday.

Graham Stringer, who was the leader of Manchester city council during two failed bids for the 1996 and 2000 Olympics, said he welcomed a statement made by Marc Hodler, a senior IOC official last week. Hodler claimed that agents had been trying for a decade to take cash from bidding cities in exchange for votes.

OLYMPIC GAMES "The IOC has a moral oblig-

ation to prove to national Olympic committees, participating countries and bidding cities that the procedures they go through are non-corrupt, honest, fair and objective, Stringer said.

The IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, said on

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Sunday that the organisation would expel any members found guilty of corruption. An IOC committee is currently investigating accusations of payments made in Salt Lake City's successful bid for the 2002 Winter Games.

Stringer, a member of the lower house, said he had first hand experience of the behaviour of some IOC members

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from his time at Manchester city council. He said that two IOC members, from different parts of the world, had tried to make money out of their visits. Stringer said that one mem-

ber had sought £12.000 reimbursement for money allegedly

stolen from his hotel room. "When we said we would get the police to investigate he did not seem keen." Stringer

said he had not personally conducted the negotiations but was aware of them. There was no question of any reimbursement being paid, however. "It was merely a way of asking for cash."

The MP said another member had his air fare paid by Manchester when he had also had it paid by the IOC. "It took some time to get the money back." Stringer insign that Manchester had be scrupulous in following guidelines set out by the IOC on gifts

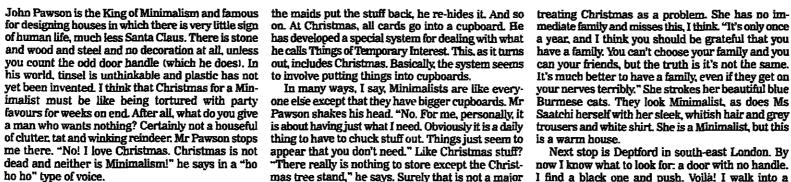
# HURSDAYREVIE

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

## What do you give the man who has nothing?

Christmas with the Minimalists

BY ANN TRENEMAN



He is between homes at the moment so I visit him at his sparse offices near King's Cross in central London. I know I've arrived, because the door has no handle. I think it would be a terrorist act to place a winking Santa on a plastic holly wreath upon it. As I arrive, Mr Pawson is busy ordering a four-metre bathtub for his new home. It is going to hold two tons of water. Minimalist home, Moaximalist bathtub. He is a person of extremes. This becomes clear when I ask whether he likes Christmas trees. "Yes! Fantastic. Well, they can be beautiful. I can't remember what the best one is. But, my gosh, I hate them in the wrong place." I nod. Like the dining-room? "Hillsides! I hate them on hillsides. In Scotland there are ghastly planted forests which are completely the wrong trees."

fir to match the floorboards. "But I was jolly glad to get rid of it. Well, it completely changed the space." Any decorations? "No. We may have had lights." By this he means candles. "Highly dangerous, of course,

There are lots of presents. "That seems to be maximum, at least as far as the children are concerned. Though I quite like wrapping things beautifully. It's almost nicer than what's inside."

John Pawson is putting a brave face on all of this, as have the other Minimalists whose spare spaces fill this story. But the truth is that Christmas and Minimalism are not made for each other. Tyler Brûlé of the hedonist style magazine Wallpaper\* is brutal in his assessment: "Perhaps a true Minimalist would have no religion and therefore no Christmas. I think that for a true, die-hard Minimalist, Christmas has simply got to start at Heathrow." He's got that right. Every one of them seems to have plans to put an airport or two between themselves and the Season of Clutter

John Pawson will be heading for South Africa, but not before the big day. His preparations are sparse. Cards for close friends only. He buys his wife clothes and what he calls practical underwear. He likes to get socks. "Very functional," he says. The cards that he receives are not displayed. "We don't have a mantelpiece," he explains.

He doesn't decorate, though he is not against certain natural substances. Mistletoe, for instance, is beautiful, as long as there is "a huge bush of it" and not merely a twig. Frost and mist are also terrific. And white, of course. Not to mention snow. Holly is fantastic, as long as it isn't mixed with anything. "I just do not like mixed." He says this with such conviction that I can hear the full stop.

He says he doesn't want his Christmas to sound too art-directed. It doesn't really - just patented. In fact, he has highly romantic notions of carols and jolly meals and lots of good cheer. He grew up in Halifax, West Yorkshire, amid much tradition. But these are all experiences and come undecorated. "Christmas is not about things, is what I'm trying to say!" he finally says, exasperated

I believe him, because Mr Pawson is a pretty obsessive man. In hotel rooms, for instance, he takes

he calls Things of Temporary Interest. This, as it turns out, includes Christmas. Basically, the system seems to involve putting things into cupboards.

In many ways, I say, Minimalists are like everyone else except that they have bigger cupboards. Mr Pawson shakes his head. "No. For me, personally, it is about having just what I need. Obviously it is a daily thing to have to chuck stuff out. Things just seem to appear that you don't need." Like Christmas stuff? "There really is nothing to store except the Christmas tree stand," he says. Surely that is not a major problem? "Well, you have to look at it for 12 months. One is almost tempted to buy one every year. Worth it, I think. You know bicycles are a big problem, too. They take up a huge amount of space wherever you put them. Where do you put them? In the bedroom? In the garden? It's a problem that hasn't been solved."

I think of this problem when I visit Doris Saatchi, who lives in a house in Mayfair that was designed by Mr Pawson, and whose front door also has no handle. Not because I run into a bicycle or anything but because, while I sit at the long and empty kitchen counter, I hear a phone ringing. Where is it? I look round and see very little. This is normal in a Minimalist house. The phone keeps on ringing. Ms Saatchi opens a cupboard. "Hello," she says. But of

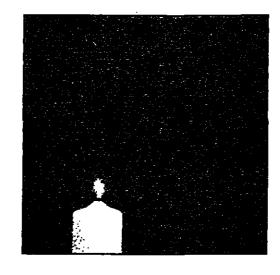
Doris Saatchi is a Minimalist who believes in "letting it rip" in December. Christmas is for children and, though she has none herself, she buys lots of presents for the refugees housed by Westminster Council. On the day I visit her, her slab of a diningroom table is stacked with them. There are Walkie Talkies and Pretty Princess dress-up sets and Boggle games, and just about everything plastic that is sold in toy departments everywhere.

As we talk, she removes price tags and checks batteries. Most years, she holds a huge Christmas party for her friends and their children. She says the children love her house because there are no china figurines to break, or lamps to upset. I look at the wall, on which flashes an Angela Bulloch artwork involving four Belisha beacons. It is called Daylight Four. No china decorations, perhaps, but no shortage of BritArt either. There is a Damien Hirst in the

Most years, there is also a huge Christmas tree - a 10-foot-tall one that she lops off to fit under her eight-and-a-half-foot ceiling. "It is totally glitzy. glamorous, with lots of baubles. Lots. It's one thing to live simply all year round - I wouldn't live any other way - but I think it is nice, once a year, to break out and let all your vulgar visual impulses out. Mine is hardly a designer tree. I gather that some people now actually get designers to do their tree, to theme their tree." She sounds incredulous. "I think that is really, well, just not for me."

So lots of children, lots of meals, lots of goodwill. She sends a few cards but gives no presents to friends or relatives. She has told her brothers that she is giving presents to the refugees in their names. Nor is she big on decorating. This year, that has been restricted to a twig with berries in the stone-clad atrium. She doesn't display her cards, and recycles them via the Post Office or gives them to schools. But she likes getting them. "I like to take trouble at Christmas. We shouldn't complain about the trouble of Christmas. It's easy for some people to simply sit behind their desk and write a big cheque and get somebody to go off and buy presents for this person or that. That is all very corporate. I think that is such a great pity. That is not about personal relationships."

This is a theme with Ms Saatchi, who is rich, of everything on display and hides it in drawers. When course. She does not like the way the media keep lined that they may be invisible



have a family. You can't choose your family and you can your friends, but the truth is it's not the same. It's much better to have a family, even if they get on your nerves terribly." She strokes her beautiful blue Burmese cats. They look Minimalist, as does Ms Saatchi herself with her sleek, whitish hair and grey trousers and white shirt. She is a Minimalist, but this

Next stop is Deptford in south-east London. By now I know what to look for: a door with no handle. I find a black one and push. Voila! I walk into a Japanese-type garden with stone pebbles, reflecting pools and a silver frog. I see a house through a huge window. Where is the door? I give up and shout. A man runs down the stairs and opens the window which is, in fact, a door.

Welcome to the home of Chris Mazeika and William Richards. They are 36 and are both dressed in black, by coincidence they say. They are jolly good fun and theatrical, though not very Christmassy. No cards, no presents, no anything really. Their house knows the pitter-patter of tiny reindeer only because Harvey Nichols used it for its Christmas photo-shoot, as did a Sunday newspaper last year. The latter left a rather stupendous Christmas tree ice sculpture in the pebble garden. It took a week and a half to melt. type thing, but William says that would be "too done".

Last year, they spent the season in Sri Lanka. This year they are heading for Lithuania. Chris says his roots are there. Another big attraction seems to be potatoes. "I have a fantasy about a Christmas with everything made out of potatoes," says Chris. "Potato wine, potato soup, potato cake." He is really into this. It is, he says, going to be a really minimal potato Christmas.

They insist they are not anti-Christmas or anti-Maximalist either, and then become rather dramatic for no apparent reason.

William: "It's not like we think everything else stinks. I tell you, I would love to fire-bomb Changing Rooms, though.

Chris: "You really don't need to have this reaction, William,' William: "But I am having that reaction! It is all

about effect." Chris: "You can say that about a lot of things. Some Minimalism is about effect."

William: "It's formulaic." Chris: "It is a form of abuse!"

I interrupt. Any Christmas decorations planned? William points to the only thing on the wall; it is blue, square and glittery. "That's a Christmas decoration from last year!" It is, in fact, a work of art by Martin McGinn, from Hale's Gallery in Deptford. They turn out to have quite a few Christmas ornaments - hidden in the cupboards. There is an entire choir of candles, shaped like choirboys, from the Forties. These were bought at Deptford market. Chris runs downstairs to retrieve a Jesus from the wardrobe. He is a sad affair, with no arms or legs, and draped in rosary. There is also a crib from the Salvation Army Care & Share shop on Deptford High Street.

They line all these things up on a glass shelf, but it is only about 10 minutes before Chris jumps up. "Too much. Can't stand it," he says, clearing away Jesus. "Yes, it is too much," agrees William. Soon there are no decorations left on the shelf that overlooked the white room that overlooks the pebble garden in deepest Deptford.

As I leave, I realise that I now know what you give a Minimalist for Christmas. Forget socks. Think door handles. But streamlined, of course. In fact, so stream-

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#### Pinochet's progress

Sir: It must be insisted that Pinochet be required to explain his actions regarding his illegal usurpation of power and the ensuing murders of many of his compatriots by him and his armed forces. Disregarding the barrage of propaganda unleashed by all involved in this affair, he must be brought to justice, if only for the international community to show a red light to such individuals. He was not the legally elected representative of his people and, even if this had been so, no leader has a remit to commit mass murder to achieve and maintain power.

Those opposing Pinochet's extradition are, in the main, the Chilean middle-classes, the rightwing press in the UK and leaders. past and present, of the British Conservative Party. Part of the motivation inherent in this opposition is that in 1973 certain well-known right-wing international agencies were involved in the conspiracy to ensure Pinochet's success. Without this aid and comfort, Pinochet might well have lost the game. There are those who advocate Pinochet's return to Chile to face the music. If he is permitted to return home, one thing is certain: there will be no trial.

It could of course be said that people in glasshouses should not throw stones." The history of many former colonial powers would not bear truthful scrutiny in this regard. Notwithstanding this, whatever the outcome of this affair, it will have an enormous effect on the global perception of what is right and proper regarding the government and governing of any community. If we fail in our task to bring Pinochet to justice, then God help us. KEITH PETT Whitchurch, Hampshire

Sir: Whilst I fully endorse Mr Straw's decision to allow General Pinochet to be extradited to Spain, there are all too many on the left whose reaction to the general's fate can be read as sanctimonious ("That he will be made to face his past is uplifting", 10 December). These are the very people who have glossed over the widespread abuse of human rights in former and still existent communist states.

There are now groups working for the arrest and extradition of Cuba's Fidel Castro so that he may stand trial for the murders committed by his regime.

Will Harold Pinter and Ken Livingstone join them or will they be like so many leftist intellectuals of the past who reserved their invective for an Orwell, a Camus or a Koestler who knew and said openly that the firing squad and the torturers could also be composed of Communists? JOHN NORMAN ondon N12

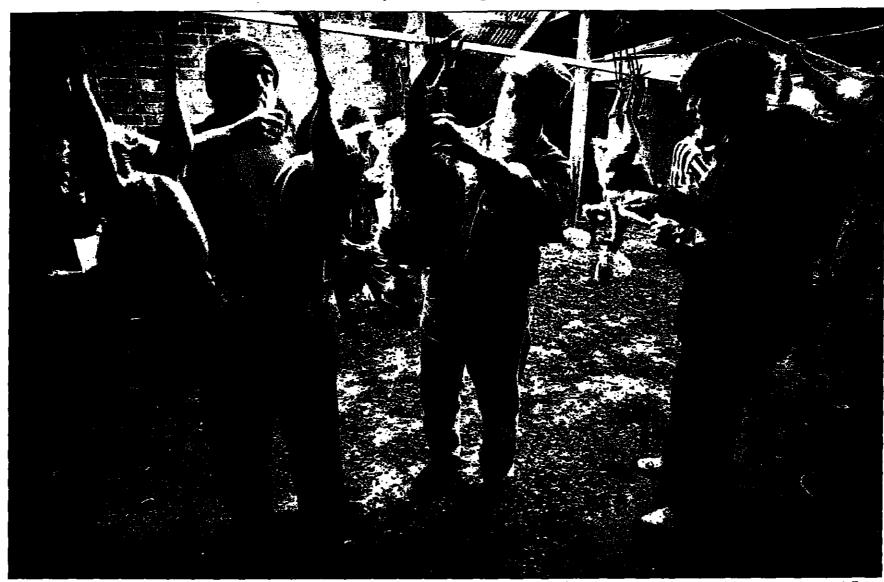
Sir: General Pinochet's lawyers base their appeal against the Law Lords' decision on accusations of bias against Lord Hoffmann, who is chairman of Amnesty International Charity Ltd. Since when was a "bias" towards universal human rights, or against their violation, reprehensible in a senior judge in a democratic country? If we accept this usage, we run the risk of unthinkingly accepting the prejudices of Pinochet and his supporters, both in Chile and in Britain. Let us watch our language. Southampton

Sir: Whatever one's views on the Pinochet affair, we should be grateful that attention has been drawn to Lord Hoffmann's connection with Amnesty International. It seems uncomfortably possible that a senior member of the judiciary supports human rights and is opposed to torture. Worse, it appears that he does this for no remuneration and may even permit these sentiments to influence his judgement. If this is true of one of them, might it not be true of others? I think we should be told. ROBERT CANTON Keyworth, Nottinghamshire

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Christmas Workers No 4: the poultry plucker. Ken Smith (centre) plucks a turkey at Peachcroft Farm at Abingdon in Oxfordshire

Tom Pilston

hope of a response has not worked.

General de Chastelain's

Commission should draw up a

timetable for decommissioning

such that the process would be

Fein would be admitted to the

required by the Agreement. Sinn

Executive on the day that the first

destroyed. The British, Irish and

a solemn undertaking that if there

complete by 23 May 2000 as

arms were handed over or

were any slippage in the

with the Commission (the

immediately lose its place.

London NW1

for complaint.

Commission itself would be the

judge of that), Sinn Fein would

Post Office in hock

Sir: I am a frequent user of the

practice to send Christmas and

birthday cards and to send and

receive letters. The Post Office

other banking transactions

these functions I have always

received good service at modest

letters to go", 8 December)? As a

competition; it has 100 per cent of

its market; it is not a business with

ever-increasing dividends. It has a

government service it has no

shareholders to satisfy with

constant revenue stream from

which any further developments

any lender. No one in their right

can be funded without recourse to

mind would hazard their future by

income. So why then? Is it just that

someone can see an opportunity to

make money at others' expense?

DAVID MALCOLM

putting themselves in hock to the

loan sharks in order to gamble

when they have a guaranteed

Why then does it need to borrow

cost and have never had cause

Post Office and Royal Mail; it is my

pays out my pension, issues the TV

licence and is capable of handling

through the Giro system. In all of

Here is a suggestion.

Sir: No. Peter Skellern (letter. 11 December) isn't the only person hoping for an extradition application by Argentina for "the Baroness". Just like Pinochet, she is unlikely to be brought to justice in her own country. Telford, Shropshire

Sir: There is something hideously Orwellian about a situation in which holding a murderous dictator accountable for his actions can be described as "shameful" and inviting him for tea is presented as an act of patriotism. It may come as some grain of comfort to Mr Skellern to reflect that the source of such perverted thinking has long since me a niece of irrel political jetsam more to be pitied than extradited.

In similar Orwellian vein is the suggestion that having a passionate belief in human rights somehow disqualifies a person from being a judge. In Pinochet's Chile, perhaps. I wonder what £500-an-hour legal brain dreamt that one up JAMES HOLT

Storrington, West Sussex.

Sir: In the spirit of fairness it should be remembered that it was Chile who rescued Shackleton's men from Elephant Island in 1917. Shackleton had to leave them there while he and five others set off in a lifeboat to sail the perilous 800

miles to South Georgia for help. After four failed attempts, the Chilean steamer Yelcho, under the command of Captain Luis Pardo. broke through the pack-ice to reach the stranded crew of WILLIAM F LONG Loughton, Essex

#### Lament for Ulster

Sir: Once again we have the opportunity of reading David McKittrick's eloquent lament on the need for movement from both sides on the painful issue of decomissioning ("This row about

guns will not unravel the peace process", 15 December). My worry, and I'm sure the dreadful fear of others, is that the unionist people are being led to believe that the key to the future peace of Northern Ireland is the surrender of arms by the terrorists.

Whilst the arguments for decomissioning and the extraction of the gun from Irish politics are wholly admirable, in themselves they do not bring us to any new place.

From a security point of view. the army and police would not behave as though the security risk had diminished just because a truckload of old guns turned up in South Armagh, The extension of this would possibly be a new round unionists of how they could be expected to go into government with republicans whom they could

not trust, who might possibly have more guns under different tables. Whilst the unionists, along with the nationalists, voted for the Good Friday agreement, we have not

Sir: Dr Kim Howells comments

December): Tesco may claim to

make a loss of 30p per kilo on

wonder, makes the huge profit

get 72p per kilo and even as

little as 50p per lamb, but the

Sutton St Nicholas, Herefordshire

Sir: Regarding the review by Donald Cameron Watt of Brian

Aldiss's In the Twinkling of an

Eue (9 December), I write from

the shop address three stories

below his old room at Oriel to

announce that Sanders is alive

and well at 104 The High.

bookshop in the strictest

Although we are no longer a

price on the supermarket

shelves is prohibitive to

I have seen farmers in Wales

on the profits of supermarket

chains (The House, 10

British beef but who, I

on British lamb?

the housewife.

Mrs M CONWELL

subsequently had any announcement from unionist politicians that the key to future long-term peace lies in the fact that unionists must for the first time make real efforts to make nationalists feel included in all aspects of Northern Irish society. Announcements and behaviour of this nature would secure the constitutional basis of Northern Ireland and kill off the utter rubbish talked about this being the

first step toward a united Ireland. If only the irresistible force of Mr Trimble could bring the unionist people to this recognition, then they would realise how strong a position we all are in. JOHN COOK

Sir: According to David McKittrick ("IRA says no to weapons handover", 12 December), David Trimble insisted in Oslo that the IRA must decommission its arms before Sinn Fein could be admitted to the new cross-party Executive in Northern Ireland. In fact, what

Mr Trimble asked for was "a serious beginning". In the light of the history of this issue, his comment that "that is not too much to ask for" seems restrained. In December 1993, at the time of

the Downing Street Declaration, both governments said that decommissioning would have to take place before Sinn Fein could enter all-party negotiations. This requirement was progressively watered down in the face of Sinn Fein's and the IRA's insistence that they would decommission at the end of the negotiations but not before. In January 1996, the International Body chaired by Senator Mitchell suggested the compromise that some decommissioning should take ace in parallel with negotiation In the event the negotiations took place without decommissioning and Sinn Fein/IRA were not even held to their original position of decommissioning on their conclusion.

The policy of making concessions to republicans in the

## IN BRIEF sense, we have a large stock of

antiquarian prints and maps. which Mr Watt is more than welcome to come and visit should be find himself on a sentimental journey to his former haunts in Oxford. **JJSGOSS** 

Sir: Your report (10 December) that Monsanto is refusing to "halt tests" using "Terminator" technology was misleading. Monsanto is not conducting any tests. This technology is currently owned by Delta & Pine Land Company, though we have announced our interest in acquiring it legally. We have no direct control over its use or development. We are also very aware of the concerns that have been expressed about this new

technology. In fact, the purpose of the meeting to which you refer was to discuss those concerns, not ignore them. PHILIP'S ANGELL Director, Corporate Communications Monsanto Washington DC -

Sir: The Director General (Tourism) India, would like to make emphatically clear to all your readers that the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, has clarified that the ASI has no plan to close the Taj Mahal, except on Mondays for maintenance and cleaning ("India's latest plan to attract more tourists: closing the Taj Mahal", 7 November). M PATTANAIK Assistant Director Government of India Tourist

## Asylum with dignity

Sir: I welcome David Aaronovitch's article challenging those who scapegoat asylum-seekers in this country ("Who are these asylumseeking scum? They're people like,
my grandparents", 15 December).
The hardship endured here by asylum-seekers is a national disgrace. I believe that an array of practical measures to promote practical measures were maintained dignity and equal respect are crucial at this time

The Government's decision to The Government's decision to proceed with the withdrawal of all cash benefits for asylum-seekers it. a policy of blame, which will condemn asytum-seekers to unto further hardship. The Government's intentions are disturbing. As set out in July's White Paper, the expensive, segregated provision of last resort without choice, cash or autonomy at a location subject to the whim of an official, within a framework of deference, is the spectre of the Poor Law. This proposed administrative system runs a high risk of stigmatisation, social isolation, down-grading and institutional neglect. Secondly, to quote the shambolic experience under the National Assistance Act as evidence, to scrap all cash benefits is a grave insult.

The Government is now looking with local authorities for local consortia to step in as an interim measure to push for the dispersal of asylum-seekers across the country. This is a "less bad option" than having an inefficient Home Officeled agency centre-stage, but likely effects are to place asylum-seeks in isolated hard-to-let estates with inadequate resources, and to leave many others in dire need, relying on begging and charity. TERRY PATTERSON Committee for Non-Racist Benefits

#### Kids need exercise

Sir. It was good to see the issue of school travel nestling amongst the fag butts, hamburgers and video games in your coverage of the Government's new survey of children's health ("Flabby youngsters put health at risk", 15 December). Research undertaken for us by the Institute of Child Health reveals the importance of changing patterns of school travel for both child and adult health.

Although walking to school has declined in recent years, 49 per cent of school trips are still on foot. 6 4 American governments would give Walking to school represents 41 per cent of the average distance walked by all children annually. It is timetable, or any failure on the part of Sinn Fein to co-operate fully therefore a vital component of children's overall physical activity at a time when children take less and less exercise. As your report emphasises, childhood patterns of exercise are likely to persist into is tomorrow's heart attack victim.

> Parental concern about traffic danger (often caused by other parents on the school run) and 'stranger danger" are the main causes of the decline in school walking. These issues, and the health implications of longer school trips arising from "parent" choice" in schools, need urgent attention as part of the Government's programme to improve childhood health. BEN PLOWDEN Director

The Pedestrians Association London EC1

#### money ("Post Office's monopoly on Lording it

Sir: I would suggest a solution to the Prime Minister's problem with the upper house: the appointment of contract employed Peers, Give honourable, intelligent Labour faithfuls a weekly Pullman ticket, bed, board, £500 expenses and treat them like Lords for a week in exchange for voting as necessary to support his Government.

I would be a volunteer, as would a considerable number of my friends currently retired early. It would make us feel useful again. Before Christmas please - the money would be handy. CHRIS McPARLIN Altrincham, Greater Manchester

## French schoolgirls from outer space boggled my mind

The other day I was stopped in the streets of Bath by two young girls who waved a questionnaire at me and wanted to know if they could ask me a question.

Normally, when I am stopped by females waving questionnaires. I will either run like mad or lie through my teeth to get away, because although these consumeroriented harpies like to tell you it will only take a moment, they always put you through at least a quarter of an hour of hellish ques-

This time it was different. For a start, the girls were only about twelve. For another start, they were French. And the single question they asked was very simple: "Please, do you know who is Tony

French children wandering through Bath, so it is clearly a favourite target for cross-Channel school outings, and most of them carry little study sheets and questionnaires which must be designed to focus their visit and prevent them spending all their time shopping and shoplifting.

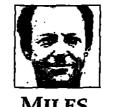
If wonder if the French realise

that they have a reputation in the whole of the south of England for being compulsive shoplifters? I have been told about this by shopkeepers as far apart as London and the Channel Islands. If the English are a nation of shopkeepers, then the French are popularly supposed to be a nation of shoplifters. Personally, I think that if there is any truth in it, it is probably because it is a statistical certainty. Most of the foreign shoppers are French, so it

stands to reason that most of the foreign shoplifters will be French as well. Still, it is unnerving to go into a shop in Bath and see a notice saying All Shoplifters Will Be Prosecuted written in French and no other language...)

And I have often wondered what questions these young French persons were asked in their wanderings round Bath, what ingenious artistic, historical or architectural posers they were being posed, and now I knew. It was: "Do you know who is Tony Blair?", a bit of information, to be honest, which they could have picked up without leaving France.

Ah, but were they trying to find out who Tony Blair was, or whether I knew who he was? Was it my ignorance or their ignorance they were exploring? Was the question



**MILES** KINGTON

Even I. a benighted Englishman, know who the French Prime Minister is. It is Scott Joplin

on their paper "Can you try and find out how many Englishmen in the street know who Tony Blair is?" or was it "Who on earth is Tony Blair?" I had a look at the paper: "Qui est Tony Blair?"

They looked at each other. "Prime Minister? What is that? Qu'est-ce que c'est que le PM?" It was beginning to dawn on me that these two little French girls

were not terribly interested in politics. If they didn't know who Tony Blair was, or what a Prime Minister was, then they probably didn't even know who their own French Prime Minister was or what he did. Why, even 1, a benighted Englishman, know who the French Prime Ministeris, It is Scott Joplin. No. not Scott Joplin, but a name like that ...

Well, a Prime Minister is the man who... or woman who..."

Who what? There flashed through my mind all the articles I "He is the Prime Minister," I

had read recently which explained that the PM no longer has any real power, that it is all in the hands of the big global corporations, that the PM can only tinker with the system, playing at devolution, playing at reforming the Upper House, and so on. There also flashed through my mind all the other articles I had read entitled "Who is Tony Blair?" or "Will the real Tony Blair stand up, please?", in which it was made clear either that Tony Blair is a genuine politician, or that he was nothing of the sort, only a power-hungry manipulator... Somewhere, no doubt, there is an article explaining why a power-mad manipulator like Tony Blair should want to occupy a post with no power ..

Still, as an in-touch British jour-

nalist I owed it to these two young French girls to give some sort of explanation.

"Well," I said, "the way it works is this... They had gone. No doubt tired of my hesitation, they had gone in

search of someone less vaciliating. Or perhaps I had received a visitation. Perhaps, in an effort to get me thinking about Tony Blair, and politics, and the nature of power, someone had actually sent me a vision. Perhaps a couple of angels, disguised as French schoolgirls, had been sent to set me thinking...

It's a humbling thought that I have been chosen for this. Ever since my encounter with them. I have often asked myself "Who is Tony Blair?"

It has never failed to put me araight into a deep sleep. straight into a deep sleep.

die norid is an we Noone - except for a sill bankers for nave ATHER WELLS TO SE proceedings is wearic anderen less for the But ther Bill Clini brether even withou Whate every thing in death that it is in more issue. His object to that Nothing it specified. W not bestern until the That assumption. taken. Cienton. .. ke di plorget the strict e De House of Representa Congress not the ne office until January determined not to let

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President rich, disher )lil

behave well, iltoi no

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ISHAL FRIENCE CONTRACTOR NO berefa building high rite. nette it was the or or excess Football Association His leatures made gray more than missing min. the arrumstances of his He resigned trather that sacted after a sty hour me Asexecutive confinities been discussing the control affirm loan to the Weigh This loan had not supe

authorised by the 3-10 cm ti ad committees of course bit of his alleged - his alleged - his kelly and the F coroner and the tentus Wiseman Only a letter fro alened the F1 grandres ime of this loan But what had been goin these transfer that this those hung things that so people used to get have the which they stood to fortunes. No, this was 720 a political loan, granted i

Cardiff's Supporting Wish aning body. Fila. Where culture as time a clash : sheetkin can he would? a mish better position case for England's bid of 2006 World Cup This bid is harely important, apparently spending apparently spending electric spend idle else, criss-crossing bis efforts to bring Brazil lialy et al back to Engle

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THE REPUBLICAN leader apparently has the powrent censure from co loavide in the House. But publicant mean to do this Applicant mean to do this an exercising A Poser ising power to pr very conscience vote claim to be holding.

Should not denigrate the pander the Constitution. and shave been debat

## \*THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

## The office of the President deserves better than this

WILL THE Comeback Kid make it this time? No one at this point really knows. His fate, as the House of Representatives prepares to vote on his impeachment, hangs in a balance that could still be tilted by a midnight call, a last-minute intervention or even some dramatic gesture by the President himself. The odds are moving against him, but he has fought himself out of a corner before and may yet do so again.

The harder question for the United States, and the rest of the world, is: do we really want him to survive this time? No one - except for a hard core of a Republican right that still hankers for revenge for the ousting of Richard Nixon actually wants to see the indignity of full impeachment proceedings. It would do nothing for American democracy and even less for the country's position in the world.

But then Bill Clinton cannot be said to be doing much for either, even without a trial. Only a month ago he seemed to have everything in his hands. The US public had voted clearly that it did not wish his private life to become a public issue. His chief tormentor, Newt Gingrich, had resigned. Nothing, it seemed, would prevent him coasting, soiled but not beaten, until the end of his term.

That assumption, to put it mildly, has proved to be mistaken. Clinton, like almost all the commentators, seemed to forget the simple point that the impeachment vote in the House of Representatives would be made by the outgoing Congress, not the newly elected one, which does not take office until January. The Republican majority has proved determined not to let their catch slip away so easily while they still have him in their grasp.

Their partisanship is far from edifying. But then Clinton himself has behaved little better. Sensing freedom from his pursuers, he has acted as though his problems were over. It is not so much that he has been triumphalist, as that he has been complacent. And that, to his critics and to those who remained undecided, was not good enough for a man who - in their eyes - had perjured himself and abused his office for sexual gratification.

This is the "character question" that has overhung the President from the beginning of the Lewinsky affair and is so damaging to him at this moment. What exactly he did in the Oval Office or elsewhere with a young intern totally besotted with having a relationship with the President is nobody's business but those directly concerned. The public may be interested, but it can claim no right to know. That is what most voters felt last November, and it still holds true today. But the American public and the politicians appear to have equally come to the conclusion that he didn't behave well, that he did lie about it, and that his constant evasions and sophistry are bringing the office of the President into disrepute



This is more than a matter of partisan politics. It is about office, and Clinton's ability to exercise that office. When the first question asked of the American President on arriving on a crucial peace mission in Israel is "Mr President, are you going to resign?", it is clear that Clinton cannot exercise real leadership. There is always the argument that this does not really matter in domestic terms, although Americans take a lofty view of the position, if not the job, of President.

But it does matter to a world where Iraq is being threatened with bombs, where the Middle East peace process is falling apart, where Kosovo continues to ignite the Balkans and where Asia has been thrown into turmoil by recession.

It is time that Bill Clinton ended the prevarication and the semantics. He owes it to his supporters at home and his allies abroad to come clean and accept that he has abused the highest office in the land. If that does not stop the rot, then he has only one course that leaves him and the US with any dignity - to resign.

#### Final whistle for the amateurs in blazers

NOTHING HAS quite so become Graham Kelly's time at the Football Association as the manner of his leaving, for at least he went with dignity. Which is more than can be said for his chairman, Keith Wiseman.

Wiseman's refusal to go quietly says as much about the way the Football Association is structured as about himself. Giving away "a gift" of more than £3m without board sanction or corporate supervision is a sackable offence in any business. To say that it was done in in the interests of securing the World Cup for Britain in 2006 only makes it worse. If England really wants to play in the world league. they need to show that the nation that founded so many sports in its public schools now has sports administrators who are imbued with a totally professional outlook.

But as the events of this week have shown, this is the very quality that is lacking in the Football Association. Like so many other sports in Britain - cricket, athletics, tennis, both codes of rugby, to name but a few - the governing body of football is largely a ramshackle club of amateurs helplessly trying to cope with a modern world of professionalism. Balancing the demands of fans with those of business is not easy. But this is all the more reason why it can no longer be left to the men in blazers, many of them seemingly more interested in securing cup final tickets than in running the game efficiently.

For the moment, however, the focus is on football. At least the departure of Mr Kelly provides an opportunity. and a motive, for the FA to restructure itself by improving its management, reforming its controlling bodies and putting real teeth into its regulation. To start with, we must hope it appoints a new chief executive with the vision, toughness and single-mindedness that are so essential to succeed in sport but so lacking in its management.

## Those devoted to 'higher causes' know FA about management

iss Graham Kelly. If ever a years. The boost to the English game man habitually wore the proverbial of hosting the competition cannot be face of a bulldog sipping piss from a overstated. Even sober, sensible, nettle, it was the chief executive of the Football Association. His miserable Blair) go weak in the bladder at the features made great copy. But even more than missing him, I wonder at national life, gloriously, for months. Oh, the circumstances of his departure. the merchandising! And this may, I He resigned trather than wait to be sacked) after a six-hour meeting of the FA's executive committee, which had been discussing the circumstances of a £3.2m loan to the Welsh FA.

This loan had not, apparently, been authorised by the any of the FA's myriad committees or councils, but had ins: y - it is alleged - been agreed directly by Kelly and the FA chairman. coroner and ex-tennis star. Keith Wiseman. Only a letter from Wales requesting the first tranche of 400 grand alerted the FA grandees to the existence of this loan.

But what had been going on? There is no suggestion that this was one of those bung things that some football people used to get involved in, and by a shambles. Shambleses can exist which they stood to gain large fortunes. No, this was more probably a political loan, granted in return for Cardiff's supporting Wiseman in his attempt to get elected to football's governing body, Fifa. Where, as well as cutting as fine a dash as a guy in

sher akin can, he would have been in much better position to push the case for England's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup.

This bid is hugely important. Tony Banks, apparently, spends his time on little else, criss-crossing the globe in his efforts to bring Brazil, Argentina, Italy et al back to England after 40

middle-aged men like me (and Tony thought of it. It would dominate our suppose, be the reason why Mr Wiseman has not yet resigned, despite a vote of no confidence in him. He may yet expect to be vindicated.

But, if the allegations are true, what a silly sod he is. Mostly for not realising that the old days are gone. When David Mellor described the FA as a "shambles" yesterday, he was talking about the lack of professionalism that appeared to characterise the association's doings in everything from the Welsh business to the assistance given by the head of communications to Glenn Hoddle's illadvised (though lucrative) book about the last World Cup. I would simply add this for now: the FA has always been relatively happily for years and years. But it is now far harder to survive in glorious disarray.

Ask Mary Allen. In her recently published diary of her short time as the chief executive for the Royal Opera House, A House Divided. Allen reveals an organisation in whose dictionary no word as Germanically taut and disciplined as "shambles" appears. Within a few days of taking over, she is told that a projected deficit that she assumed to be £800,000 is now nearer £6m. On 30 September 1997,



DAVID AARONOVITCH

The BBC was heading for an extinction crisis, just like the Football Association and the Royal Opera House

The following day she decides that a Cuban dancer should be paid a phenomenal amount because: "There is no point in having a Royal Ballet if it's not a good Royal Ballet." But she finds, on 7 October, that others in the ROH have the same view, and the Figoro sets are over budget by £40,000. The next day she is told that there is an immediate and unanticipated cash flow crisis of £600,000. A day later there is an imminent cash gap of £2m.

She despairs. "How can any organisation be so utterly disorganised, have such a complete disregard for its own health and be so irredeemably hopeless at communicating within itself, as to allow a further film loss to lie around, undiscovered, unidentified for four weeks during the budshe discovers an extra £1m gap be-cause VAT has not been accounted for tears." Allen's problems, as she de-

scribes them, are horrific. The management structures are chaotic; the artistic managers do not feel themselves responsible for finances, and her various boards and committees pull her in every direction at once. Unsurprisingly, Allen's tenure lasted

less than seven months. When she first arrived, Allen described the ROH as being like Mervyn Peake's Gormenghast, a vast, rambling, semi-dilapidated castle, run according to ancient custom and in which you could become lost for ever in a maze of corridors, rooms and broken towers.

It was the same word that I used about the BBC when I first joined its Lime Grove operation 10 years ago. The Beeb owned large numbers of crumbling old buildings, in which forgotten staff laboured on past projects; posts advertised at low levels of pay disguised huge and unwieldy overtime payments, which cost a fortune to administer, budgets were notional, with resources allocated by unit and not price. As a result, no one had any idea about how much anything cost. Personal contact and favours were the mortar that filled the cracks. Memos went from MEWSPNCATel to MED-

NPRad, and were returned. The BBC was heading for an extinction crisis, just like the FA and the ROH. It faced a completely new competitive situation, a government that did not love it, and the end of the gravy train, the annual cash bonanza caused by the switch from black-andwhite to colour licences. Like the other two, the organisation served a "higher cause". Theirs were the

People's Game and the Nation's Cultural Heritage: the BBC's was Public Service Broadcasting.

So Michael Checkland and John Birt, in particular, introduced management to the corporation. You know, like goals, priorities, systems, bar charts, graphs, communication exercises, objectives, appraisal, so that no one in the whole place could claim (no matter how artistic and removed from the common treadmill they were) to be ignorant of what was expected of them. A cost was found for everything, a limited internal market was introduced - more to change the prevailing culture than

simply to save money. It was, in many ways, awful. All of a sudden we creative types found ourselves writing endless reports, attending interminable courses. Management skills superseded visionary contributions to popular culture, when it came to becoming an actual manager. Morale, it was said, was at a catastrophically low ebb. A long moan went up in 1988, and is still to be heard whenever BBC people

meet together. But it worked. The BBC was not privatised, was not stripped of its licence fee, did not go bankrupt as its costs soared and its revenue declined, did not lose key services, stop producing drama or news. There weren't even (ssshhh!) that many job losses. It required obstinacy, clarity and a willingness to court unpopularity to achieve. Management sucks, just like government and parents. But, also like them, it's a whole lot better than the

alternative. Ask Graham Kelly.

#### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The Americans have been looking for an excuse to bomb Iraq for a long time." Tony Benn, Labout MP for Chesterfield

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"All colours will agree in the dark." Francis Bacon, English philosopher



At 16, Mary ran away from a life of abuse. Today she is homeless. Could you sleep easy on Christmas Eve knowing she was shivering in a bus shelter?

You can help keep Mary, and thousands of vulnerable people like her, safe and warm over Christmas. With £25 from you, Crisis can provide a warm bed, hot meals, clean clothes and someone to talk to at one of our shelters.

As the days count down to Christmas, nearly 10,000 homeless people are counting on Crisis. We're counting on you. Our service depends on public donations. So please send your £25 today - in time to help us buy the bedding, food and clothes we need to bring Mary in from the cold.

#### Countdown to Christmas

i Yes, I'll keep homeless people warm: ☐£15 ☐£25 ☐£50 ☐£250° other£\_ l enclose a cheque made payable to Crisis. OR debit my:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Switch<sup>†</sup> other \_\_\_\_ 

Last three digits of Switch card no. 1 1 Switch issue no. 1 Expiry date / Signature \_\_\_\_

\* Gifts of £250 or more are worth almost a third extra to us under Gift Aid

OR please call our freephone donation line 0800 038 48 38



THE REPUBLICAN leadership apparently has the power to prevent censure from coming to a vote in the House. But if Re- legitimacy. publicans mean to do this, they should acknowledge that they are exercising power to prevent the very conscience vote they claim to be holding. They under the Constitution. Cennumerous occasions, and some peachable offense. The Senate

have even been passed. While their efficacy can be debated, there is no real question of their The Washington Post

SINCE CLINTON will not do the honorable thing, the House must do the right thing, which should not denigrate the power is to vote to impeach Clinton and authority of the Congress and have him tried in the Senate. This is about duty, honor sure 1 colutions of one sort or and upholding the Constituanous nave been debated on tion. Lying under oath is an im-

### **MONITOR**

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

US comment on the prospective vote to impeach President Clinton

needs to have the opportunity CONGRESSIONAL CENSURE to decide if the charges brought before the House are true. If they are, then Clinton must be removed from office.

must condemn his conduct and include an agreement that he will not seek or accept federal office after his term ends. To be Salt Lake City Deseret News held accountable means to

accept the consequences of vengeance. [They were] in-one's actions. Forfeiting future tended as a scalpel for the cutoffice is a consequence more ting out of cancers, not for the meaningful than a fine, which excising of unsightly pimples. Clinton would have others pay. Clinton can yet restore some honor to his name by coming clean with Congress and the American people. Seattle Times

HISTORY WILL condemn the Republicans for using their constitutional powers as an word on a Bible. instrument of partisan The New York Times

We say that from the platform of our record of consistently criticizing Clinton, his failure to lead by example and his abandonment of his constitutional duty to defend and uphoid the law. He is, in sum, a man you cannot trust whether you have his handshake, signature or

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## **PANDORA**

LAST MONTH, the

YESTERDAY DURING the Committee meeting, Robin Cook trumped a discussion on lengthy FO working hours by declaring: "My job is the number one passion in my life." When someone asked him about his famous enthusiasm for horse-racing, he confessed: "I'm sorry to say I haven't been able to go racing for three months." Nobody dared to ask the obvious question: What about Gaynor, his new bride of less than a year? Hopefully, she had a few passionate words to say when Cookie got home.

THAT GLEEFUL twinkle in Spectator editor Frank Johnson's eye is not entirely due to his impending marriage next week. There's also the blissful news that his conservative magazine's profits are up almost 50 per cent. No doubt the proprietor. Conrad Black, will be sending the newlywed Johnsons a luxury present. And what could be more appropriate than something from one of The Spectator's ultra-chic advertisers (Gucci, Louis Vuitton, etc) who have helped to fuel the once-struggling weekly's rise to financial glory? In the meantime, Geoffrey Robinson's New Statesman, sans luxury adverts but loaded with political correctness, is a long way from these giddy profit figures and still very much

WHILE CITIZEN Newhouse, a new, unauthorised biography of the Condé Nast billionaire SI Newhouse, is the book on everyone's Christmas list in Manhattan this year, it is the architectural historian Victoria Newhouse, Si's wife, who is making the local headlines. Mrs Newhouse has joined with her East Side neighbours to oppose the brash property tycoon Donald Trump's plan to build the world's tallest block of flats opposite the United Nations. Mrs Newhouse told the NY Observer that she did not speak on this issue for her husband; it seems that Si is friends with Donald. When the Observer's reporter asked if this issue was putting a strain on her marriage, Mrs Newhouse provided at least one authorised bit of

autobiographical

information. "The only



marital problem we have," she said, "is arguing over what movies to rent."

Government earned high praise for passing the Registration of Political Parties Act, which is supposed to stop electoral confusion. But Pandora has learnt that the use of misleading titles such as "Literal Democrat" or "Conversative", ruled out by the Act, could well continue. It seems that candidates can still use absurd "party" names on a ballot paper at election time if the returning officer allows them to do so. A Home Office spokesman told Pandora yesterday that some new guidelines for returning officers will be introduced next year, but would offer no guarantee on their rigour. Meanwhile, the new Act requires all political parties to register with Companies House and pay a fee of £150 – whether

or not the application is

successful. Isn't this a

rather novel way to lose

you stand for election?

your deposit – even before

ONE POLITICIAN who will definitely be relying on the discretion of the returning officer is Tommy Graham, MP for Renfrewshire West. After being expelled from the Labour Party in September. Graham currently calls himself Scottish Labour. Although this party wouldn't qualify to register at Companies House, Graham and others intend to run as Scottish Labour against official Labour candidates in forthcoming elections. However, he told Pandora: "Labour is such a dirty word in Scotland now, some of my colleagues think we should drop it altogether."

AS IF Christmas weren't stressful enough, now Pandora has received an extraordinary holiday health warning from the British Hernia Centre: "Whilst mincing the fruit for the mince pies or humping the Christmas pudding pose little threat, the real danger in the Christmas dinner is the turkey [pictured]." Dudley Rogg, the Centre's clinic director, says: "We see more cooks after Christmas than at any other time of year." The "danger" comes when

the cook lifts turkey out of the fridge and into the oven. While hernias are a valid Pandora is far more alarmed by the mental health questions raised by someone "humping the Christmas pudding". Dudley, please clarify.

## Don't forget to pay for the artists

TODAY, AS the Arts Council distributes nearly £2,000m to arts companies across the land, Sir Peter Hall will be preparing to leave the country. One of Britain's greatest theatre directors is taking off to direct a Shakespeare season in Los Angeles. It will be diverting, and the weather is good; but in truth he doesn't madly want to go. He'd rather be in London running the Old Vic - a theatre that has been bought for the nation but cannot afford an artistic director and repertory company. So he's off to the United States, and one of our great theatres

We may love the arts in this country, but we don't seem terribly keen on artists. The Arts Council spends not only £200m each year on the performing arts in annual grant. but also a further £200m in National Lottery money. And it spends virtually the lot on buildings, institutions and companies, from the Royal Opera House to the small local concert hall and arts centre. No one has thought to spend even a fraction of this sum on people - something that is regularly done in the scientific community, with top scientists



LISTER Aside from a few small bursaries, the arts funding system does not

recognise human beings

taking grants with them if they move from one institution to another. Aside from a few small bursaries, the arts funding system does not recognise human beings. Yet what is the arts if it is not the presentation of talent, and what is talent if it is not the genius of individuals? Theatre, opera and dance companies change as their artistic directors change. Some get better, some get worse, but their funding tends to remain the same.

The manner in which the money is distributed has shaped our attitude towards culture. Companies that have annual grants and fancy names, particularly with the word "national" in the title, must intrinsically be good. But arts companies, like any other business, are shaped by the people who run them. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) became one of the world's finest because of its conductor, Sir Simon Rattle. English National Opera, though not its funding, dipped after the departure of its Eighties triumvirate of Peter Jonas, Mark Elder and David Pountney.

Last month the hottest ticket in town was the Frankfurt Ballet, which was on a brief visit to London. Few, even within the audience of devotees, could name a single dancer on stage. Everyone was there for one reason. The company's choreographer was William Forsythe, the experimental, boundarystretching New Yorker. The same is true here, of course. The stunning success of the small Almeida Theatre is a tribute to the vision of

its director, Jonathan Kent, who fought off the cynics to insist on putting on a double bill of Racine in the West End. The West Yorkshire Playhouse attracts some of the country's top actors, not necessarily because of the beauties of Leeds (whatever Ian McKellen may say) but because it has a highly regarded director in Jude Kelly. But under the inflexibility of our system, when Kent and Kelly leave their respective theatres those theatres will still go on getting the same grant and the freelance efforts of Kent and Kelly will, like the freelance efforts of Sir Peter Hall, be reliant on the whims of a commercial sugar daddy. To paraphrase Flanders and Swann: we

don't fund people. Won't fund people. Funding people is wrong. Sir Peter Hall asked the Arts Council for exactly £500,000 to run a company at the Old Vic. He was told that he didn't stand a chance, for the bizarre reason that there was already "enough serious theatre in London". Yet today the council will announce a multi-million-pound increase for the Royal Opera House, which does not even have an artistic

Of course, arts companies should not simply lose their funding with a maestro leaves. The CBSO, even without Rattle, is a formidable orchestra and should be encouraged to maintain its international provess. But we should be making just as big an effort to hold on to Rattle What I would like to see is, side by side with the usual funding of companies and buildings, a sum ring. fenced for people. The talent fund of say, £5m, would allow proven cultural leaders, such as Hall and Rattle, to form their own performing ensembles, run festivals, or do whatever takes their fancy. Who could object to staking some public money on their vision?

Indeed, we could go considerable further. Why don't we use this stream of public money to play the international field as soccer clubs do Let's try to tempt William Forsythe over here with cash to start a dance troupe. Let's get Peter Brook back But we won't. People are liabilities They don't have boards and committees. They take risks and they are unpredictable. They are artists And there's nothing that scares our arts funders more.

## Charm is not enough – now Blair must take on Murdoch

IT'S EASY for the metropolitan elite to be sniffy about Rupert Murdoch and Conrad Black's hysterical campaign against the so-called tax harmonisation plans of Germany's new evil genius, Oskar Lafontaine. The fact that Lafontaine has proposed no such thing was not going to be allowed to stand in the way of a good scare story. Although the Europhobes' scare campaign has little actual substance, it's certainly had an impact.

The latest MORI poll shows that among the readers of every major paper, opinion has swung against Britain joining the Euro since September. Even readers of The Independent – who are among the most pro-Europe of any national newspaper - registered an 11 per cent swing against the Euro during the recent row as the spin off from radio and television coverage got to them.

This is bad news for Tony Blair's softly-softly, catchy-monkey charm offensive to persuade Murdoch and his ilk of the joys of Europe. Blair at his most charming can get away with murder, as those of us who have occasionally been on the receiving end of one of his charm offensives will know. The technique he had already developed while at Fettes has been honed to perfection in his dealings with Labour MPs.

For those of us who remember Neil Kinnock under pressure at the weekly meetings of the Parliamentary Labour Party, his face red with rage as he questioned the loyalty and occasionally the manhood of his colleagues, Blair's performances come as a blessed relief. Faced with strong criticism from Labour MPs, Blair's response is to turn on the charm, be humble and genuinely admit that he might have made an error. Often he is able to turn the mood of an audience with a self-deprecatory joke, though his ica in which America, working



#### KEN LIVINGSTONE

The die is cast and there is no point in pulling any punches in the bitter euro debates to come

reference is for gentle jokes about his leftist critics.

with countless newspaper editors swathe of European governments over lunch, and was a key factor in defusing the sort of virulent press criticism that did so much to cost Kinnock the premiership. But the main factor in winning the support of Murdoch's Sun was not charm. but a strongly Euro-sceptical article he penned for that paper in the runup to the general election. It is this ability to float like a butterfly above the ideological divide which has been Blair's great strength in driving forward the Northern Ireland peace process. Lacking John Major's sentimental commitment to the Unionists, he approached the issue

as a problem to be solved. Blair's problem with the question of monetary union is that it is not a problem to be solved but a choice between two fundamentally opposed views about how the world should be organised. On the one hand, Rupert Murdoch and Conrad Black demand loyalty to project World Amer-

through its increasing domination of the United Nations, IMF, World Bank and World Trade Organisation, reorganises the entire global economy along lines similar to the internal organisation of the domestic US economy. The classic example of this was the attempt to secretly negotiate a new set of rules on international investment among the rich nations of the West which could then be imposed on the weaker nations of the world.

Not surprisingly, it was France which sunk the pernicious Multiateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) which would have undermined trade union rights and environmental protection legislation across the planet. Although 30 years ago De Gaulle was the only major figure in European politics to resist America's grand designs, recent Blair's style has worked wonders years have seen the election of a determined to defend Europe's welfare state, environmental legislation and trade union rights. The virulence of The Sun's attacks on Lafontaine are because he is the principal articulator of a pan-European alliance strong enough to resist US pressure. Blair's preference would be to

avoid this schism by achieving some form of compromise between the rival European and American agendas. His mid-Atlantic position has already led to the most dramatic U-turn of this government on the issue of European defence cooperation. At his first European heads of government meeting, in the summer of 1997, the Prime Minister strongly opposed any moves towards a pan-European defence structure, but in the last few weeks he has signed up to exactly that with the French president, Jacques Chirac, while continuing to protest that this new deal must in no way undermine Nato.



Rupert Murdoch is not susceptible to Blair's charm offensive

won round by a charm offensive. This move would allow public opinion to be swung round in favour of the Euro, allowing the Prime Minister to win a referendum on joining the Euro in the honeymoon period immediately following his re-election victory in 2001.

The prospect that Britain seemed set fair to join the Euro no later than 2003 was enough to keep big business happy. But now that the Eurosceptic press barons have made clear that they are not susceptible to a charm offensive when it cuts across their fundamental economic commitment to the US, we face the prospect of a virulently anti-Labour campaign in the run-up to the next general election depicting Blair as a stooge of a German conspiracy to win by stealth what they failed to achieve in two world wars.

Blair's hope that public opinion

To govern is to choose, and time subject is now dead. As his permit is rapidly running out for Britain to mance in the House of Commons on decide where it stands on the issue Monday shows, he is starting to fight of the Euro. Blair's initial strategy openly for British membership of the was to hope that Murdoch could be Euro. Having gone this far, the die is effectively cast and there is no point in pulling any punches in the bitter debates to come. We need to spell out quite clearly the benefits to Britain of being part of a Eurocurrency bloc large enough to resist the attacks of speculators which have so often in the past derailed the plans of Labour governments. We need to spell out the benefits to British industry of being part of a currency where the interest rate is 3 per cent rather than our current

6.25 per cent. But most of all we need to make clear that while Britain's large corporations were prepared to tolerate joining the Euro a few years late, the prospect that Britain might not join at all in the event of a Tory win based on opposition to the Euro means that we would see a flood of jobs from Britain that would make the Israelites' exodus from Egypt could be slowly shifted on this look like a weekend excursion

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precious stone? Open societies are societies which allow trial and error. This is the sim-

plest definition of the concept. know, we can only guess. Our guesses may be wrong; in fact, proving guesses wrong is what the advancement of knowledge is about,

It matters, therefore, above all that falsification remains possible, that it is not prevented by dogma or even the vested interests of the scientific community. We cannot be sure what the good society is like, we can only advance projects to this end. Such projects may turn out to be unacceptable or inappropriate; in fact, debating their pros and cons is what life in the open society means. It matters that change remains possible, that it is not pre-

vented by tyranny or cartels. Popper was right when he pointed to profound differences between the natural and the social sciences. Time, history

IS THE Open Society a rather, signified the key differuseful project or an ence. If Einstein proves Newempty concept? Is it an ton wrong, Newton was always empty shell or a wrong. If a neosocial-democratic project replaces a ne-oliberal one - Clinton after Reagan and Bush, Blair after Thatcher and Major - this may It is in fact the application of Popper's philosophy of knowl-right at its time has come to be edge to social, economic and regarded as wrong. Perhaps it political affairs. We cannot even means that all projects will in due course be "wrong";

history knows no "truth". Society not only has history but it is also heterogeneous. It must remain possible to remove governments without force, no less, but no more. Applied to economic processes. the notion that comes to mind above all is that of the market. It alone leaves open the door to changing tastes and preferences, as well as to new "forces of production".

Schumpeter's world of "creative destruction" by entrepreneurs is in some ways the economic version of progress by falsification. In society in the more diffuse sense it is harder to find the equivalent Probably the notion of plu-

ralism is relevant here. The notions of democracy, the market economy, and civil PODIUM

An open society needs conflict

RALF DAHRENDORF From the Karl Popper Lecture, delivered at the London School of Economics by the sociologist

society must not mislead anyone into believing that there is only one institutional form to give them reality. All that remains essential for open societies is that there are rules of engagement which allow the continuation of the process of trial and error. The whole point of the open society is that there is not just one way. nor are there two, or even three, but 101 - that is, an

indefinite, unknown and un-

knowable but large number. This is why 1945 and 1989 are such critical and exhilarating dates in the dismal history of the 20th century. They mark the defeat of the

enemies of the open society, and thus not the victory of an other "system" but the opening up of wide and varied horizons of opportunity. Diversity and variety are now the name of the game.

There are many ways to try. and it is wrong to recommend, let alone to impose, just one version of democracy or of market economy to those liberated for the new openness. There are, on the other hand, new dangers also, and they have to do with ambiguities and problems arising from the concept of the open society.
If trial and error define the

open society as well as the advancement of knowledge what if people stop trying? What if no one endeavours to discover anything new?

Like the dramatic moments of lost theories and lost elections - perhaps even of the "crisis of global capitalism" normal scientific. political and economic activity in the open society has to be public. Trial

visible, open to critical appraisal, an invitation to all to participate.

This, rather than some capitalist crisis, is in my view the deepest problem of some south-east Asian countries. This is also where the postcommunist countries of East and East-central Europe it hardest to move towards open horizons.

If the open society is not also an active society, it will soon cease to be open. But openness by itself does not create the activity which is needed. What does? I have long liked Immanuel Kant's strictures against the Arcadian longings of many, and his insistence that our "unsociable sociability", our penchant for power and possession and the resulting social conflicts, were the foundation of our freedom. Popper has certainly set an example, not just by his ideas but by his often fierce polemics, and by indomitable curiosity.

Critical discourse and political conflict are the lifeblood of a world in which people never cease trying, erring, and trying again,

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## Callaghan condemns PM's spin doctors

LORD CALLACHAN of Cardiff, By ANDREW GRICE the former prime minister, yesterday urged Tony Blair to rein in the Government's army of "spin doctors" and warned him not to distance Labour from its trade union foundations.

Asked about the high-profile erage for their ministers, Lord Callaghan said: " I don't like it. I distike being spun. I would certainly not carry a pager myself - but then I am so old-fashioned about these things."

Lord Callaghan admitted that, during his spell as prime minister from 1976-79, the government did by to influence the press and broadcasters. "Of course, there was a certain amount of spinning, but we were much more amateur about it. We regarded it as a bit of a laugh, frankly."

He joined the criticism that Parliament has been downgraded since Labour regained nower last year. Mr Blair has reduced the two weekly sessions of Prime Minister's Questions to one and rarely takes part in Commons votes.

"I fear the House of Commons is less important today than it was. I very much regret it," he told BBC Radio 4. But Vord Callaghan appeared to efend Mr Blair against allegations that he is a "control freak." He said that was "a reflection of the extreme way the party went in the Eighties."

The former premier said he regarded the Blair administration as a true successor to his own government, citing the actions of Frank Dobson, the

and David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, as being "in the true traditions of

the Labour Party." Lord Callaghan supported political aides who seek to Mr Blair's goal of forging a secure favourable media cov-Government's policies. But he said it should be done "whilst adhering to our history - by that I mean that trade unions should continue to play a prominent role in the Labour Party."

Lord Callaghan suggested that New Labour's spell in the political centre ground might not last, and that traditional leftright hostilities might resume. He said British politics was

"a kind of pendulum" in which parties went from one extreme to another and then rested in the middle. Although there was now "a period of calm", argument would return.

"What Tony Blair has to achieve - and I expect he will - is to ensure that despite the argument, the country gets a clear view of what is going on."

Mr Blair seems to have taken heed of one piece of Lord Callaghan's advice. Yesterday he attended his third meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party in recent weeks and stressed the need for dialogue between ministers, MPs and the party. Until recently Mr Blair had attended the weekly meeting only occasionally.

MPs were promised greater input into the Government's policy-making process yesterday, by David Miliband, head of the Downing Street Policy Unit, Secretary of State for Health who spoke at the meeting.



Houdini with Conan Doyle: Their friendship developed into a longstanding



## Conan Doyle's very suspicious seance

IT WAS the strange and mo- BY DAVID LISTER mentous night when Arthur met Harry.

The Arthur was the creator of Sheriock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Harry was the legendary escapologist, Harry Houdini. They had been brought together by their sbared interest in spiritualism. They met on this occasion in a hotel room in Atlantic City.

The curtains were drawn and the ouija board was produced. Conan Doyle's wife, Jean, allegedly a medium, attempted to summon the spirit of Houdini's mother. As the escapologist and writer looked on she said she had succeeded and conveyed to Houdini seasonal Christmas greetings from his departed mum.

The two men rejoiced at the success of the seance. It was only later that Houdini, no doubt inspired by the spirit of Sherlock Holmes, smelled a rat.

As his mother was Jewish, her first words to her son from the other side were unlikely to be Merry Christmas. And as she all questions" and congratulate spoke only Yiddish it was even more unlikely that she and Lady Conan Doyle would be able to

After that evening in 1932 the

Arts News Editor

escapologist became increas-ingly strained, developing into a feud. The feud and Conan Doyle's staunch defence of spiritualism is evident in letters by the author to be auchoned today. The two men fell out for

good when Houdini's repeated miture to reach his mother on the other side led him publicly to denounce mediums and seances as frauds. Conan Doyle remained a firm believer in sniritualism Four letters written by Conan

Doyle to the American journalist and the psychic investigator, James M Bird, are expected to fetch between £3,000 and £3,500 when they go under the ham-mer at Southeby's. Conan Doyle was an admir-

er of Bird's investigations, even remarking in one letter with a surprisingly modern colloqui-alism "Wow! What a life!" The letters encourage Bird in his "quest upon the greatest of

him on his "stand against Houdini", adding that Bird, after his tigations, "cannot have the slightest doubt of the preternatural origin of these phenom-

He also encouraged Bird in his "quest upon this greatest of all questions - so great that the most powerful argument against it is that its general acceptance would dwarf the af-

Also for sale at the auction is a pamphlet, A Word Of Warning, which Conan Doyle wrote in 1928 saying that the world faced an impending crisis to which he had been alerted through his spirit guide.

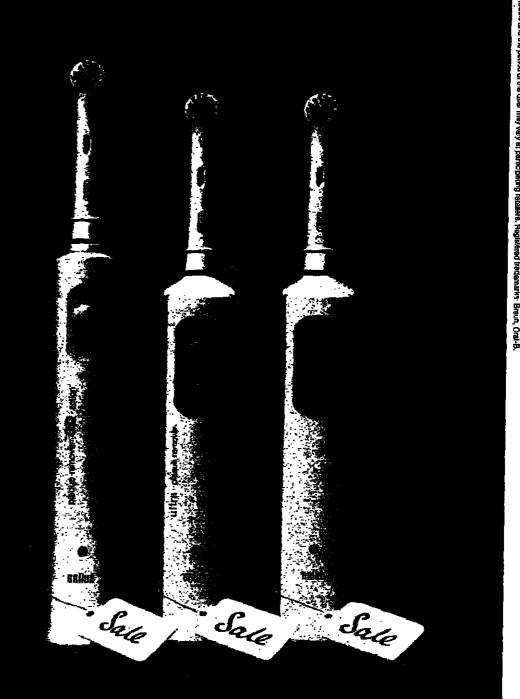
Meanwhile, a frustrated Houdini had published a series of articles exposing mediums and psychics as fakes.

Taking issue with one of these, which refers to a photograph of a levitating Chicago medium that Houdini said was false. Conan Dovie wrote: "He told me that he could see the foot of Mrs Tomson in the photo taken with him in Chicago. I should think that the real argument is that where a medium is faking she would take particular notice that her foot

was not visible." Included in the sale is an LP brought out in 1970 of The Final Houdini Seance. That seance, which took place on 31 October 1936, involved Houdini's widow attempting to contact her late

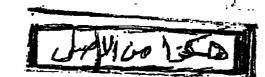
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# Pierre Rouve

PTERRE ROUVE was a master of to him for the assertion of fundaseveral trades: interpreter, diplomat, art critic, semiotician, BBC World Service broadcaster, film producer/director, translator, university lecturer. He arrived in England from his native Bulgaria in 1947, and became well known in various subcultures of his adopted country, depending on which of his many hats he was wearing at any given moment. But in Bulgaria he was a celebrity, and one of its most famous émigrés or exiles, along with his sister Dora Vallier, Julia Kristeva, Tsvetan Todorov and Elias Canetti. On learning of Rouve's death, the President of Bulgaria, Peter Stoyanov, wrote to Rouve's wife and daughter: "Your husband and father will have his place in the history of Bulgaria."

Rouve used to joke that he was a professional Bulgarian, but this was a day-job persona, an image constructed by an exile in the classic mode. Inside Bulgaria his was the voice (literally so, over the air) of freedom, tolerance and democracy, incarnating these eternal values during the darkest days of the Cold War. But this liberal intellectual was never a hardline ideologue and after the fall of Communism he called for moderation and tolerance towards individuals associated with the ancien régime.

Broadcasting regularly for 50 years as a freelance ("a spiritual amassador" in the words of Bulgaria's Minister of Culture), he may have had only one long-service peer at the World Service, the far less extrovert but equally intellectual Anatole Goldberg of the Russian Section. They both embodied a public service broadcasting culture whose heyday may, sadly, have

Goldberg, however, unlike Rouve, was primarily a political commentator. One could more appropriately compare Rouve with Alistair Cooke, broadcasting to his home country from abroad, but for obvious reasons Cooke's listeners do not turn mental values denied at home.

While Rouve did share something with these two great broadcasters, his famous broadcasts - in which he discussed cultural and social issues, literature and art - were a projection of his own highly individual voice. Like Arthur Koestler and George Steiner he was a grand master of haute vulgarisation. From 1969 till 1982 be also broadcast on France-Culture

What underlay every word Rouve spoke - in private and in public -

was a fox, and a fox knows many things. Thus the self-deprecatory remark about being a draft, a practice run, for his equally brilliant sister, raises a big question: was he - in his own eyes although certainly not in the world's eyes - unfulfilled in some way? Answer, of course, comes there none. For he, being himself ("such as into himself at last he is changed", to adapt Mallarmé), could not help doing many things. It was the nature (for which one can read culture) of the man.

The man was brilliant and charm-

One grouse his friends have against him is that much of his best writing - à la Coleridge and Isaiah Berlin – was spoken. He could compose fully fledged impromptu sentences and paragraphs, at the drop of a hat - or a brandy

were the language, attitude, education and general approach of central European intellectuals, the kind of émigré figures often found in, and perhaps more at home in, Paris or Vienna, Edinburgh or Berlin. In England such figures, especially if their style is perceived as being eloquent in an old-fashioned way, are sometimes dismissed as pseudointellectuals - but this term is often enough a synonym for intellectual as such. Rouve himself saw England as the embodiment of civilisation, France as the embodiment of culture. His younger sister, the famous art critic Dora Vallier, lived in France. He always said he was the "brouillon" (draft) for her.

By this I suspect he meant that she was - in Isaiah Berlin's terminology - a hedgehog, who knew one big thing, namely art, and spent her entire life writing major works of art history and criticism. He, by contrast,

ing, seductive and handsome, and in 1962 he met his perfect match, in the beautiful and talented young educationist Sonia Joyce. In his movie incarnation, he directed James Stewart in Stronger in the House in 1968, was Antonioni's associate director on Blow-Up (1966), and worked with Anatole de Grunwald on many films. He directed his close friend Jonathan Griffin's translation of Claudel's Partage de Midi at the Ipswich Playhouse in 1972, starring Ben Kingsley and Annie Firbank, who were both far less well known than they are today. London buddies descended in a hired coach. Rouve also directed plays for the legendary Q Theatre at Kew Bridge in

One grouse his friends have against him is that much of his best writing - a la Coleridge and Isaiah Berlin - was spoken, whether at pub-

the Forties and Fifties.

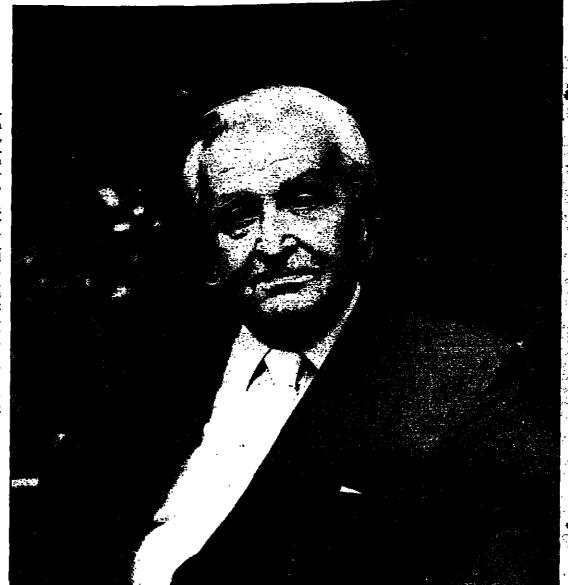
House, or hosting boozy smoke-filled dinner parties in his Chelsea house (with pictures by Poliakoff, Vieira da Silva and Arp on the wall). Like other intellectuals of his ilk, he could compose fully fledged im-promptu sentences and paragraphs, at the drop of a hat - or a brandy.

I shall never forget one occasion in King's College London, after someone had given a prepared lec-ture on some topic or other, when Rouve stood up from the floor and made a critique of the lecture which left lesser mortals breathless. Oh, the unwritten books! His studio was in Markham Square, a short drink from his house: Bulgarian plum brandy and fags, books in many languages (he spoke at least six), mementos of theatre and movies, memories and icons (a traditionalist unbeliever, he is being buried according to the Bulgarian Orthodox Christian rite). Rouve belonged to a classically European community of the spirit, and it is good to know that his widow intends this studio to house a foundation which will keep this spirit, his spirit, alive.

A book which was written - in

French - was his extraordinarily original study of J.M.W. Turner, Turner: étude de structures, published in France in 1980. This text, which avoids the opposing sins of esotericism and populism, was praised to the sky by such eminent figures as Claude Lévi-Strauss, Roman Jakobson ("a daring and powerful attempt to see a painter's development and achievement in the light of sign theory, philosophy, psychology and cultural history") and Jean Starobinski. Rouve also published many shorter texts on art and semiotics, a characteristic title being: "From Opteme to Sight Sentence: towards a visual grammar" (1983).

The son of first-generation post-Liberation teachers, Rouve received his early education at an Italian primary school in Sofia and at the Augustinian Fathers' Lycée in Plovdiv - where he received the school



The type of the central European intellectual

Pope John XXIII - and then attended university in Sofia (studying for an appropriately functional law degree in order to please his widowed mother, although he never became a lawyer) and Rome. He did postgraduate research in Venice and

During his military service he had the taxing job of interpreter for the army orchestra. From 1938 till 1946 he was a professor at the University of Sofia, and also spent some time lic meetings, in the club at Bush prize from Cardinal Roncalli, later as a diplomat. He taught at univer-

sities throughout Europe, as well as in North America and Mexico. He was Vice-President of the International Association of Art Critics and President of the International Jury of the Rijeka Biennale of Drawings.

Perhaps the most famous poem Wallace Stevens, Rouve's favourite English-language poet, is "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird". Substitute Rouve for blackbird and you have an idea of his manifold nature. Another poem of Stevens, "Notes Toward a Supreme

Fiction", ends with the phrase "he . . . lives on the bread of faithful speech". Faithful speech was Pierre Rouve's sustenance. We can ask no more of a European intellectual or indeed, of a human being.

ANTHONY RUDOLF

Jozef Gross

Peter Christoff Ouvoliev (Pierre Rouve), art critic, broadcaster and film director: born Sofia 12 January 1915; married 1962 Sonia Joyce (one daughter); died London

## Helen de Freitas

HELEN DE FRETIAS was both a leading member of the American community in London and an outstanding ambassadress for Great Britain in Accra, Nairobi and Strasbourg when her late husband, Sir Geoffrey, a former Labour cabinet minister, served as High Commissioner to two newly granted independent Commonwealth countries and as President of the Council of

She was the eldest of the four daughters of Laird Bell, a distinguished American attorney who was Chairman of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. As president of the Alumni Association of Harvard University in June 1947 Laird Bell took the chair for Secretary of State George Marshall when he launched the European Recovery Plan that bears his name. In 1956 he presided over Adlai Stevenson's campaign for the Democratic had been at Cambridge, where he elected as a Labour member soon presidential nomination

Helen Bell grew up in Winnetka. Illinois. In 1936 she graduated from Bryn Mawr, the non-sectarian women's college founded by Quakers in Pennsylvania. She then sailed in the SS Berengaria on her way to the Soviet Union to study the Moscow theatre for children. She had herself produced children's plays at the Chicago World's Fair. A friend on the New York quayside managed by gesture to introduce her to Geoffrey de Freitas, another friend, and a fellow passenger. He was returning to Britain to be called to the Bar after a two-year fellowship at Yale.

Previously Geoffrey de Freitas

The Conservative candidate was confident. His Labour opponent, he declared, had a foreign-sounding name. He seemed educated. But he was not a patriot. He had married a foreign wife

won many of the glittering prizes. As a freshman he gained a full Blue for the Union, and a leading member of the Hawks Club. His chance encounter with Helen Bell aboard the Berengaria was a most happy one. They were married two years later.

They were a handsome couple: he very tall and athletic; she, also tall, a slim brunette, with sparkling brown eyes and a winning smile. Their flat in Great Ormond Street soon became a hospitable meeting place for Geoffrey's Cambridge friends and for fellow barristers. One or two evenings a week Geoffrey attended meetings of the Shoreditch Borough Council. He had been



after his return to London. Helen found this a useful preparation for high jumping. He was President of the semi-widowhood of being a parliamentary wife.

During the Second World War Squadron Leader de Freitas served in the RAF Equipment Branch. In the summer of 1940 Helen, who was pregnant, returned to America. deeming it wiser, as she said, "to leave the defence of Britain in more active hands". Her daughter was born during the Battle of Britain. The following year she returned to England and worked in the Knaresborough General Hospital

In the 1945 general election de Conservative member for Notting-

ham Central, Sir Frederick Sykes. During the three-week hiatus between polling day and the declaration of the result Sykes was confident that he had held his seat. His Labour opponent, he declared, had a foreign-sounding name, but seemed educated. However he was not a proper patriot. He had married a foreign wife.

Sykes's electoral forecast proved wrong, and he was not to know that the foreign wife's father, Laird Bell, would shortly be appointed an honorary KBE, like Douglas Fairbanks Jnr, for his outstanding work on behalf of British War Relief.

Clement Attlee, the new Prime Minister, appointed de Freitas, a fellow Haileyburian, to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary, and the two families became close friends. The Prime Minister became the godfather of Helen's eldest son, who had been born during the three-week electoral hiatus. The christening was celebrated at 10 Downing Street.

For the next six years Helen de Freitas was largely occupied in bringing up her daughter and three sons while her husband steadily climbed the political ladder. Attlee appointed him Under-Secretary for Air, and sent him as a delegate to the United Nations Assembly at Lake Success. After Labour won the 1950 general election the Prime Minister offered de Freitas the choice between Minister of State at the Foreign Office or Under-Secretary at the Home Office. Bevin was keen to have him at the FO. Attlee advised him to Freitas stood against the sitting choose the Home Office so that he could see more of the children. "They

are only young once," the Prime sioner's knighthood - and Lady de Minister said. "Remember that." sioner's knighthood - and Lady de Freitas were a great success in De Freitas held a number of

frontbench posts in the Attlee government and Helen became a close friend of her husband's secretary in the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd, at that time a would-be parliamentarian. Much later a private pressure group met regularly in Helen's London flat to campaign for Betty Boothroyd's election as the first woman Speaker.

When Harold Macmillan was Prime Minister many former British Colonies were granted self-government. In 1961 Geoffrey de Freitas was offered the post of High Commissioner of Ghana, formerly the Gold Coast, the first black African country to achieve independence. Four Conservative ex-cabinet. ministers had been appointed High Commissioners to ex-colonies liberated under the Wind of Change, but de Freitas was the first to be chosen from the Labour Party.

He welcomed the challenge of having to deal with Kwame Nkrumah, who had been imprisoned by the British and was making somewhat alarming anti-British noises, but he did not want to jeopardise his future with the Labour Party by accepting preferment from the Conservatives. He sought advice from Hugh Gaitskell, the new leader of the Labour Party, who declared it was the most sensible proposal that Macmillan had so far made, and assured de Freitas that it would

never be held against him. Sir Geoffrey - he had been awarded the customary High Commis-

Freitas were a great success in Accra, both with the Ghanaians and with the expatriate British community, and after two years de Freitas was asked to move to Nairobi to become the first British Diplomatic Representative to the new Federation of East Africa: Uganda,

The proposed East African Fed-

Tanganyika and Kenya.

eration failed to materialise, but Kenya was granted independence under Jomo Kenyatta. The de Freitases were the first diplomatic representatives accredited to the new Prime Minister. They spent two months in England being reoriented, and Helen took lessons in Swahili. She had already learnt some Twi, the Ashanti language in Ghana. Their immediate task in Nairobi was to shift the British role and Kenya's perception of the British role - from that of colonial governing power to that of a diplomatic mission. Helen's tact and easy approachability were of great

advantage here. In 1964 Sir Geoffrey received a surprise message from the Labour Party in Kettering. Their Member of Parliament, Dick Mitchison, was going to the Lords and they were without a candidate at the forthcoming general election.

Would he allow his name to go forward for this safe Labour seat? He relinquished his Commonwealth Relations post and was duly selected from a field of 73, and returned to the House of Commons. But Gaitskell, who had warmly endorsed his leaving the House to go to Ghana, had died the previous year and Harold Wilson, the new Labour leader and now Prime Minister. had no inclination to honour his predecessor's commitment to the former cabinet member.

De Freitas was given no post on the front bench, though he was asked to lead the Labour Party delegation to the assembly of the Council of Europe in 1965 and the following year was elected its President. Helen's fluency in French was greatly appreciated at Strasbourg.

After de Freitas had retired from Parliament, in 1979, he and his wife had more time for travelling, paticularly to the United States where two of their children had settled. Helen had always kept her American nationality. As Trustee of Bryn Mawr College she made many visits there, and supported its work with generous donations. She was also an energetic patron of International Social Service, the organisation which was founded to handle the problems of migrants and refugees, which raises money with support from the diplomatic community at its famous Spring Fair, held annually at Kensington Town Hall. She generously used both her time and the fortune she had inherited to support causes on both sides of the Atlantic.

LEONARD MIALL

Helen Graham Bell, public servant: born Chicago, Illinois 16 August 1910; married 1938 Geoffrey de Freitas (KCMG 1961, died 1982; three sons, one daughter); died London 14 December 1998.

## Marco Denevi

THE WRITER Marco Denevi was that rarest of creatures: an Argentine who was a master of understatement. Typically, although he won several prestigious literary prizes, and was mentioned as a candidate for the Nobel Prize for Literature, his own definition of his literary ambitions was modest in the extreme: "In these times when people inflict so much pain and suffering on each other, it's enough to make someone a little happier. I have about 5,000 readers, and, if I can make them happy, that's fine

by me.' Denevi was born in 1922 in a small town outside the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires. Like many thousands of people, his father had emigrated to Argentina from Europe at the turn of the century. Marco always admired his father's outlook on life, which he once described as follows: he had no relatives or friends in Argenti-na, but he had a mind of his own, an iron

will, and an incorruptible honesty. All he knew was to work. At the age of 50, not only married to an Argentine woman but with seven children, be decided to retire and live off his investments. He helped the development of a small town near Buenos Aires, and when he died in 1949 he still had no idea what being smart, being a speculator, or taking advantage of people meant.

As with many immigrant families, Denevi's father wanted something better for his children than mere work, so he sent Marco to university to study law. Afterwards Marco took employment as a legal clerk in the Postal Savings Bank, but his real enthusiasm was for writing. By the time he was in his twenties. Argentine society was changing rapidly around him, as the new generations, many of them like him the first born in Argentina, sought political and social values they could believe in.

Denevi began to describe these

efforts in short stories and then in

novels. His first published novel,

Rosoura a los diez ("Rosaura at Ten in the Morning", 1954), used the police thriller genre to convey these processes at work in society. In 1955, the novel won what was then an important prize in Argentina, the Kraft award, which brought Denevi to the public's attention, and perhaps more importantly gave him an an-nuity for life, which allowed him to devote himself to writing.

In 1960, Denevi scored another notable triumph when his short story Ceremonia secreta was chosen from 3,000 submissions for a prize given by Life magazine. Published in English the following year as Secret Ceremony, the story was in 1969 made into a rather unfortunate film by Joseph Losey, starring Robert Mitchum and a sleepwalking Liz Taylor In this as in his other works, ordinary people find themselves lost and bewildered in a world they no longer recognise or can find their place in.

Although the 1960s and 1970s were the time of the "boom" in Latin American literature internationally, Denevi was uninterested in conferences, campaigns or reading tours. He stayed in Buenos Aires, writing more books of short stories and novels: Un pequeño café ("A Small Café", 1967), Manuel de historia ("History Manual", 1985), Enciclopedia secreta de una familia argentina ("Secret Encyclopedia of an Argentine Family", 1986), El jardin de las delicias ("Garden of Delights", 1992) El amor es un pájaro rebelde ("Love is an Unruly Bird", 1993). His closeness with the milieu in which he had always lived also helped him write several successful plays, including Expedientes ("Dossiers"), and El emper-

During these years, Denevi also worked as a journalist. Here too, he was preoccupied above all with the

ador de la China ("The Emperor

values - or the lack of them - in Argentine society as it evolved in the second half of this century. In 1990 he was one of the founders of the Citizens' Council, which sought to involve people in constructing a democratic civil society after years of military government and what he saw as the disastrous effects of

In the image of his father, Marco Denevi valued honesty, perseverance, and loyalty above all. These are the positive values in his fiction as well, to which he added a sense of irony which he once explained as a way "of disguising the fact that I'm a real softie, someone who is easily moved by other people". A gentle man, who himself moved many others through his writing. **NICK CAISTOR** 

Marco Denevi. writer: born Saenz Buenos Aires 12 December 1998. film of Denevi's novel Secret Ceremony Ronald Grant Archive



BIRTHS MARRIAGES & DEAT FOR

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# Norman Fell

THE BOOK Motion Picture Players' Credits refers to Norman Fell as merican character actor, very much on . Dvision, often as nonplussed bosses and comedic grumps". The deadpan Fell was born to be a character player, equally effective in both sympathetic and unsympathetic roles, he worked steadily during his near 50year career in all the entertainment

Born in Philadelphia in 1924, the son of a restaurateur, Fell first acted in highschool plays. During the Second World War, he spent three years in the Pacific as a US Air Force tail-gunner. "I had a lot of time to think in the service," he recalled. "I swore that, if I survived. nothing would keep me from an acting

After the war, he studied theatre under the GI Bill, emerging from Temple University, Pennsylvania, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. In New York he met Marion Brando, then the toast of Broadway in A Streetcar Named Desire. On Brando's advice, Fell studied with the noted acting teacher Stella Adler, later enrolling with the Actors' Studio. For more than a year, he commuted daily between his home in Philadelphia and New York. "I was rejected by casting directors during the day," he said. "I attended class in the evening, then rode 90 miles on the

Finally deciding to make New York his base, Fell toiled as a delivery boy for a 🗻 🞝 ra store, a fast-food counterman and a post office mail-handler before making his professional stage debut in Jacinto Benavente's Bonds of Interest 1951). Over the next five years he appeared in more than 150 television shows in New York, including Reginald Rose's original Emmy-winning Twelve Angry Men (1954). He returned to the Broadway stage in Paddy Chayefsky's play The Middle of the Night (1956), which starred Edward G. Robinson. He also acted in Perry Mason, The Untouchables and Peter Gunn.

Fell's first Hollywood film was Lewis Milestone's gritty Korean War film *Pork* Chop Hill (1959). He was again used by Milestone in Ocean's 11 (1960), after which film work suddenly dried up. He was thinking of returning to New York
was offered the rich comedy role of an amorous telephone repair man in the Debbie Reynolds/ Tony Curtis film The Rat Race (1960). "It wasn't a big part, but it did a lot for my career, which was in a slumo about then," said Fell. "It made me a better-known commodity, and bigger and better parts started to come my way."

One of those parts was a co-starring role in 87th Precinct (1961), a television series based on the police stories of Ed McBain (the pseudonym of Evan Hunter). Fell played Meyer Meyer, a veteran er whose wry humour did much to entr. I the grim and violent episodes. He was Sergeant Charles Wilentz, another television policeman, in Dan tleynolds. He and Reynolds became friends and later appeared together in the films The End (1978) and Poternity (1981). In The End, which Reynolds also directed, Fell played one of his "comedic grumps" - a doctor who has



Fell in Mel Stuart's 1969 film If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium

In The End, Fell plays a doctor who tells Burt Reynolds he hasn't long to live. When Reynolds vomits in shock, Fell barks, You're not making it easy for me

to tell Reynolds he hasn't long to live. stingy, sex-shy landlord Stanley Roper When Reynolds vomits from the shock (George Roper in the British version), of the revelation, Fell barks, "You're not

"Smitty" in Irwin Shaw's star-packed 12- Lindley left to co-star in the successful hour television saga Rich Man, Poor August (1970), which starred Burt Man, for which he received an Emmy Award nomination. He won a Golden Globe Award and another Emmy nomination for Three's Company (1977), the American version of John Esmonde and Bob Larbey's witty British sitcom Man About the House (1973). He played the

with Audra Lindley as his sharptongued wife Helen (Mildred in the In 1976 he played the key role of British version). After two years Fell and spin-off series The Ropers, which was based on Johnnie Mortimer and Brian Cooke's British spin-off George and Mildred (1976).

The kind of actor that directors knew they could rely on, Fell was employed by Stanley Kramer in Inherit the Wind (1960) and It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad

World (1963), by Don Siegel in The Killers (1964) and Charley Varrick (1973), by Delbert Mann in Quick, Before it Melts (1965) and Fitzwilly (1967), by Jack Smight in The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1968) and Airport 1975 (1974), and by Mike Nichols in The Graduate (1967) and Catch-22 (1970). He also appeared in Leslie H. Mar-

Ronald Grant Archive

tinson's PT 109 (1963, as a crew mem ber of the torpedo boat commanded by Cliff Robertson as Lieutenant John F. Kennedy), Peter Yates's Bullitt (1968, as a cop) the vampire spoof Transylvania 6-5000 (1985, as a tabloid newspaper editor) and For the Boys (1991, as a haof Norman Fell's nonplussed comedic grumps).

DICK VOSBURGH

Norman Fell, actor: born Philadelphia 24 May 1924; married (two daughters); died Los Angeles 14 December

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#### ART-HISTORICAL NOTES

NOURITZA MATOSSIAN

## The double life of a 'starving Armenian'

YOU ARE a famous artist and arts of his region. He had whose work is exhibited in an inborn sense of style with some of the finest museums but your name and nationality are invented. Why would you renounce your

identity and country? Manoug Adoian, an obscure 18-year-old Armenian immigrant, arrived in America in 1920. He had grown up in Vaspurakan, the highland plateau of Lake Van with its fine Armenian architecture. As a child who could not find words he drew and painted to gain control over the frightening chaos. He had fought in the historic siege of Van when a handful of Armenians repulsed the Ottoman army. He marched on the long retreat with his mother and sister over 200 miles of parched and rocky mountains to arrive in a cholera-stricken Yerevan. Famine took the lives of a quarter of a million people, including his mother. As a result of forced marches and butchery one and a half million Armenians perished in Ottoman Turkey's 1915 genocide.

The young refugee wanted to put it all behind but the New World stigmatised him as "a starving Armenian". Like many thousands he had to trim his name to fit in. His survival and reason for living was art. Escaping the drudgery of the foundry, he dared to conceive of himself as an artist. Nature's gifts of draughtsmanship, intelligence, emotional depth and fantasy had been nourished by his mother with the mythology, music

WHEN CALCULATING inter-

est on a plaintiff's damages

for past losses in personal

The Court of Appeal allowed

dants as a fire-fighter.

awarded damages in the sum

of £224,049.81. The defendants

had originally sought to impugn the judge's findings on the

issue of liability, but that aspect

of the case had been compro-

The issue arose on the plain-

tiff's cross-appeal whether or

not interest on a plaintiff's

damages for past losses in an

action for personal injuries

should be calculated after de-

duction of all or some of the

state benefits received by the

plaintiff as a result of the

Included in the plaintiff's

award of £224,049.81 was the

sum of £49,197.20, representing

the benefits he had received

over a five-year period. In as-

sessing the interest on special

damages those benefits had

been deducted before calcula-

tion. Had they not been so de-

ducted, the plaintiff's award

would have been increased by

Edward Bishop (Vizords) for the

mised between the parties.

which to style himself.

Yet during the act of selfliberation his black angel clung to him. He branded himself with names which had a dark side - Arshile Gorky, Maxim Gorky, his revolutionary hero, had adopted the word "bitter" as his pen name. "Arshile" hid the first letters of Adoian's own country and resembled Armenian Christian names. The mythic Achilles with his secret weakness would bedevil his life. Gorky had to brazen out the racism of the Ku Klux Klan and of the Saccho and Vanzetti trial. Immigrant artists felt that they had no right to exist, let alone enter the artistic establishment.

The inexperienced artist

took wing as the nephew of a famous writer. He swept through New York in a long wool coat and wide-brimmed hats pronouncing on exhibitions, the latest art news from Paris, the poverty of Social Realism, the urgency to strive for perfection by studying the masters. Torn away from his home and culture, he did not indulge in nostalgia. Instead he became one of the Adoian, born in western great leaders of the modern movement in America, passionately introducing Cubism. He survived the Depression and painted some of the finest abstract murals in Roo sevelt's WPA. He integrated Surrealism into Abstract Expressionism to earn praise from André Breton.

He led a double life, stay-ing in touch with his Armenian family and friends. Even when he married a second time his Bostonian wife was vague about his ancestry and did not know his real name until after his death. Trapped by his false identity after having children of his own, Gorky expressed his Armenian identity through his art. His fine drawing line flew into arabesque like the rainbow edges of Armenian carpets. Robust and complex organic forms nested like stone carvings on churches and crosses. Brilliant colours dazzled with the wealth of medieval Armenian manuscripts and the iridescent light of his lakeside paradise.

The artist even brought his mother back from an unmarked grave by painting her. Today she sits beside him in the National Gallery, Washington DC, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in queenly splendour. Yet the trauma of the genocide finally claimed him. After a series of catastrophes in 1948 he took his own life. Gorky would be amazed to read beside his painting "Manoug (Vosdanig) Armenia".

He had always planned to reclaim his name once he became famous and proved himself worthy.

Nouritza Matossian is the author of Black Angel: a life of Arshile Gorky (Chatto & Windus, £25)

## **GAZETTE**

der, 1619; Gabrielle-Emilie

#### BIRTHS. **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

\_\_DEATHS

 $j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ 

de FREJTAS: Helen, peacefully at home on 14 December, aged 88. Beloved wife of the late Geoffrey, dearly loved mother of Frankie, Graham, Roger and Patrick, Funeral service on Monday 21 December, Holy Innocents Church, Paddenswick Road, Hammersmith, London W6, at 2 nm. Family flowers only, donaraminersmin, Johosh we, at 2pm. Family flowers only; dona-tions, if desired, to Trees for London, c/o Barnes & Sons, 151 Askew Road, London W12 9AU. A celebration of Helen's life will held in the spring.

LECTURES

Portrait Gallery: Roger Hargreaves, "The Make-believe World of Theatre Photographer Angus McBean", 1.10pm. British Museum: Rowena Loverance, "Representations of the Christmas Story", 11.30am.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS Births, Adoptions, Marriages Deaths, Memorial services. Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at 56.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Mr Simon Bates, disc jockey 51; Professor Mark Casson, economist, 53; Mr Christopber Cazenove. actor, 53; Viscount Daventry, former Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire, 77; Lord de Villiers, barrister. 87: Lord Glenamara. former government minister. 86; Mr Brian Hayes, radio presenter, 61; Mr Bernard Hill, actor, 54; The Hon Dominic Lawson, Editor, The Sunday Telegraph, 42; Mr Richard Marriott, Lord-Lieutenant for the East Riding of Yorkshire, 68; Mr Kerry Packer, chairman, Consolidated Press Holdings, 61; Sir Leonard Peach, Commissioner for Public Appointments, 66; Mr Robert Robinson, broadcaster and writer, 71: Mr David Smith, former Headmaster, Bradford Grammar School, 64; Mr

ANNIVERSARIES

writer, 71.

Tommy Steele, singer and

actor, 62; Baroness Strange,

Births: Prince Rupert of Bavaria, Royalist comman-

Le Tonnelier de Breteuil. Marquise du Châtelet, writer, 1706; Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, baptised 1770; Sir Humphry Davy, chemist and inventor, 1778; Sir George Hayter, painter, 1792; Jules-Alfred Huot de Goncourt, novelist and historian, 1830; Ford Madox Ford (Ford Hermann Hueffer), novelist. 1873; J. Robertson Hare. actor, 1891; Erskine Preston Caldwell, novelist, 1903; Walter Greenwood, novelist and playwright, 1903; Stanley Raymond (Ray) Noble, composer and conductor, 1903;

Willard Frank Libby,

chemist, 1908.

Deaths: Pope Gregory VIII, 1187; Sir William Gascoigne, Lord Chief Justice, 1413; Thomas Guy, bookseller and philanthropist, 1724; Simon Bolivar, South American patriot, 1830; Kaspar Hauser, the foundling "wild boy" of Nuremberg, 1833; Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, hydrographer, 1857; Louis-Marie Alphonse Daudet, novelist, 1897; Baron Ferdinand James de Rothschild, banker, 1898; Bernard Quaritch, bookseller, 1899;

Anderson, physician, 1917; Peter Philip Heseltine Warlock, composer and editor, committed suicide 1930; Robert Malise Bowyer Nichols, poet, 1944; Sir Bernard Henry Spilsbury, pathologist, 1947; Harold Edward Holt, statesman, drowned 1967; Dana Andrews (Carver Daniel Andrews), actor, 1992.

On this day: Drake's ship

The Pelican (afterwards called The Golden Hind) sailed out of Plymouth on a round-the-world voyage, 1577; Simon Bolivar became president of Colombia, 1819; the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London. opened, 1888; the first radio message was sent across the Atlantic, 1902; the Wright brothers made their first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, 1903; a protectorate over Egypt was proclaimed by Britain, 1914; following a blizzard, New York received 27 inches of snow, 1947; due to the closing of the Suez Canal, petrol rationing was imposed in Britain, 1956; after Arab guerrillas hijacked a West German

Baron Kelvin of Largs, physicist, 1907; Elizabeth Garrett people were killed, 1973. people were killed, 1973.

> Today is the Feast Day of St Begga, St Lazarus, St Olympias, St Sturmi and St

#### RECEPTIONS

**British Safety Council** Sir Neville Purvis. Director-General of the British Safety Council, hosted a reception yesterday at the Armourers' Hall, London EC2, for the Council's Diploma in Safety Management and Diploma in Environment Management.

#### DINNERS

Society of Chemical Industry The 1998 Messel Medal of the Society of Chemical Industry was presented to Professor Jean Marie Lehn at a dinner held yesterday evening at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He spoke on "Supramolecular Chemistry: concepts and perpectives". Mr Raymond Holland, Chairman of Council, and Mr Richard Denyer, General Secretary, also attended.

plaintiff: Charles Pugh (Lawford & Co) for the defendants. Lord Justice Otton said that

nearly £10,000.

accident.

section 103 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992

#### THURSDAY LAW REPORT

Interest calculation to

disregard benefits

injury actions the court should disregard state ben-efits received by the plaintiff. 17 DECEMBER 1998

the plaintiff's cross-appeal in Wadey v Surrey proceedings against the de-County Council fendants in respect of person-Court of Appeal (Lord al injury, loss and damage suffered as a result of injuries Justice Simon Broum sustained in the course of his Lord Justice Otton employment with the defenand Lord Justice The plaintiff had been Schiemann)

11 December 1998 had provided that benefits

should be taken into account when assessing interest on an award of damages. The Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997 had repealed section 103 of the 1992 Act, but had put had been redrafted in its enno provision in its place.

The introduction of the new statutory scheme in 1997 had altered the relationship between social security benefits, damages and interest. Section 17 of the 1997 Act provided:

In assessing damages in respect of any accident, injury or disease, the amount of any listed benefits paid or likely to be paid is to be disregarded.

The question which arose in the present case was whether the enactment of the 1997 Act. and the repeal without replacement of section 103 of the 1992 Act, meant that the law had reverted to the common law position as set out in, inter alia. Jefford v Gee [1970] 2 OB 130 and Hodgson v Trapp [1989] 1 AC 807, which would mean the deduction of benefits from the damages and interest calculation; or meant that it replicated the position intro-

duced by the Social Security Act 1989 of disregarding benefits for the purposes of damages but not interest; or whether the new legislation heralded a new approach to the issue altogether.

The scheme of the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997 was clear and straightforward and led to only one conclusion: in the absence of a provision on interest similar to section 103 of the 1992 Act, coupled with the unambiguous direction in section 17 as to the treatment of benefits in relation to damages, not only should benefits be disregarded from the assessment of damages, but also from the assessment of interest.

The 1997 Act was not intended as a piecemeal amendment to the existing law, but tirety, fitting with Parliament's intention of setting up a new scheme. The omission of a provision such as section 103 could not, therefore, have been unintentional.

In coming to that conclusion valuable assistance could be drawn from the decision of the Scottish Court of Session (Inner House) in Wisely v John Fulton (Plumbers) Ltd [1998] SLT 1026, in which the court had had to consider exactly the same question as that presently before the court.

Taking into consideration the general principle that on points of statutory construction which extended to both countries, English and Scottish law should be uniform, there was no compelling reason not to adopt the decision arrived at by the Scottish court.

in the 19th century (Thack-

eray was fond of it), but it

overlooks the most famous

20th-century instance: in

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales undertakes engagements in Cardiff. The Princess Royal opens

the first phase of the Oxfordshire Museum project, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, and visits an exhibition to mark the bicentenary of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry; and, as Patron, the Home Farm Trust, attends

Sir William Thomson, first

The Coming of Christmas at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford. The Duke of Gloucester attends the opening night of the International Show Jumping Championships at Olympia, London W14.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavairy Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards,

"YOU MUST must remember zis, / A kiss is just a kiss. / A fly is just a fly," doodles John Lennon on Anthology. His penchant for pun and wordplay makes one wonder what he could have done with osculation in popular song. From the

**CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE** osculation, n.

WORDS

lips, the OED would have us sound technical - passion enacted upon a micro- believe that it petered out

Ulysses, when Bloom "kissed the plump mellow yellow meions of her rump, on each plump melonous hemisphere, in their mellow yellow furrow, with obscure prolonged provocative melonsmellonous osculation"

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

scope slide - and there are indeed zoological usages. As for a meeting of the Latin for kiss, it might

#### **DILEMMAS**

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

# Is it foolish to buy our son a flat?

Angela's son has just graduated and although he's working he can't get a mortgage. Angela and her husband have the money to help but are not sure what they should do. His mother wants to buy him a flat outright; her husband thinks they should only pay for part of it. Angela's parents say he should manage on his own like they did. What should they do?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

**READERS' SUGGESTIONS** 

that it just isn't as easy now to get a When they were young it was simple to ier. Today, to afford the tiniest little box rent a flat. let out part of it, and save for in Walthamstow you need to have two the down payment on a house. Admittedly my salary was then something like £35 a week, but in the Sixties I rented a huge flat in Chelsea for ten quid a week,

and within two years had bought an enor-

If Angela's parents are critical of her

should "work his way up," perhaps she should gently remind them that

her son's generation will have to pay

for the upkeep of its elderly people,

who are living much longer than their

Lend him the money at low interest

When three of our children were in

described in your column this week.

Our solution, which out of fairness

had to be available to all three, was as

follows. Any capital element involved

was paid out in equal shares, whether

Any money on loan was the subject of

there was a request for help or not.

a formal loan agreement, the rate of

interest being paid being the current

Building Society Savers' rate, less the

specific dilemma, your reader should

loan the mortgage needed at the rate

of interest described above. The son

Applying this system to your

basic rate of income tax.

their twenties, we had similar but

threefold situations to the one

generosity and feel that her son

The son's turn will come

forebears did.

JILL WILLIAMS

Knebworth. Hertfordshire

no help from anybody except a mortgage company. I don't call that coming up the hard way. I call it dead easy. In the Forfoothold on the ties, when Angela's parents were setting property ladder out in life, presumably it was even eassalaries, or work 10 hours a day in the City and at weekends.

When I was discussing this dilemma with friends, there was a great deal of talk - mainly from men - about needing pursuit of cash? Might his father not be

hat Angela's parmous flat in Holland Park for £5,000 with to instil in children the knowledge of "the ents don't realise is no help from anybody except a mortgage value of money". I know what they mean, and I imagine that's how Angela's husband feels, but it does rather assume that he believes his son is a squanderer. I should think that, after being a student for three years, he certainly knows "the value of money". And does Angela's husband want their son to spend his life slaving away to pay off a debt to his parents, who will, presumably, be acting as

teaching his son to over-value money? By giving him a flat, might they not be giving the young man a chance to learn, sooner, rather than later, that money and possessions aren't everything in life?

Even if they buy him the flat outright, he still has to earn a living of some sort. He has to eat, buy clothes and pay his council tax. Just because he has a flat doesn't mean he's able to loll around taking things easy. It's not as if they are offering him a private income. Even then, though a private income can be de-

structive for a lazy or unconfident child, it can be a great release for a creative one. Many artists, poets and authors have had small private means; how else would they have survived?

There is an argument, however, that to hold a little bit of the money back, say £10,000, and let him pay it back to his parents, might be good for the son, so that, when he has paid off the debt, he will feel it is indeed "his" flat, which in some way he has earned. If paying back a small bit of the cash would make

Ask him to pay some of it back

Your son's sense of self-worth and

the son feel better about himself, then obviously that's how the matter should be handled. But the son should be in on all the discussions about this.

I think my own advice would be to buy him the flat outright, unless he wants to pay back a bit on his own. It will give him a chance perhaps to work at something he really wants to do, rather than have to spend years in a job he may hate or be unsuited to, just for the cash. And in the end, he will get all their money anyway, so why not give him some of it now?

Dear Virginia,

gets the mortgage he wants at a lower cost than he would pay in the high a bank. In 1990 I felt the time had come to "fly the coop" - not easy street, the grandparents should be satisfied since he would be paying his way, and the parents have the benefit of not losing any interest on their "loan capital." This system seemed to work well in our family. TONY AND CARMEL ROGERS

Cambridge

Buy him the flat outright Why wait until you're dead for your son to inherit your money, when he's well-off and has no need for it? Either buy him the flat outright or allow him to pay back part of it. Whatever you do, don't let him struggle along unaided. Your parents are wrong there is no moral or material benefit in living miserably on a pittance if his family can afford to help him. It will not make him lazy or profligate, if our experience is anything to go by. LINDA WILLIAMS

My parents did the right thing I am 32, disabled (I have cerebral palsy so I do everything with my feet, including writing this) and I work for

St Margaret's Bay, Dover

when you have a physical impairment, but my parents had always been supportive of my independence and were pleased to see me making the effort. After all, many disabled people opt to stay at home and realise the shock of reality only when their parents pass on.

I found a bungalow, but because I couldn't afford the mortgage I drove home in a depressed state. I told my

I have been asked, as usual, to spend

children, and several other relations.

Part of the problem is my stepfather,

mercilessly - and expects Christmas

to be done 'his way', rather than as it

was when my father was alive. I

have to say that my mother doesn't

Also, my nieces and nephews

who, in my view, treats my mother

Christmas with my mother,

very bodly. He bullies her

seem to mind all this.

stepfather, brother, his wife and

parents, and thought, "Well, that's blown that". Half an hour later they called me into the living-room and asked if they could lend me £20,000 towards the purchase, on the understanding that it would be paid back over, say, the next 20 years.

Through my parents' generosity I was able to set up my own place, while still feeling that I wasn't being given a "free lunch". ROB WILLIAMS Knutsford, Cheshire

self-respect are on the line here. As parents, we think we can make our children happy with a present. But in this situation it would be treating him like a child and not encouraging him to be independent, which, after all, is the main aim of good parenting. Put down a sum on the flat and get your son to pay back the rest.

JAN HAWKES Lichfield, Staffordshire

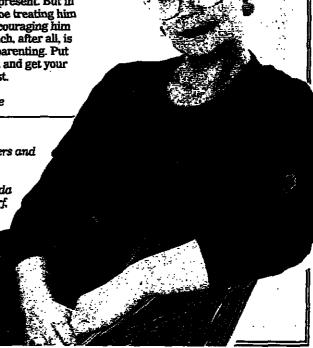
#### **NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA**

make me painfully aware that I'm a 35-year-old singleton. Increasingly, I dread going, and feel upset for days afterwards. I have a stressful job and the idea of spending the day on my own and having a drink with friends appeals to me more and more. I know my mother would be upset, but would it be very selfish to pretend to be ill? Yours sincerely. Geraldine

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora

Please send your letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside. The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fox

0171-293 2182; e-mail dilemmosiã independent. co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet



# My son at the cutting edge

There were tears and tantrums the day Jack Shamash had his baby son circumcised.

They mostly came from his wife

THE CEREMONY was easy for me. But for my wife, it was a little harder. She went upstairs with a couple of friends, got quite drunk and wept buckets.

Five months ago my wife gave birth to a son, and we decided to have him circumcised. It was not a straightforward decision. Over the past few years, circumcisions have come to be seen as almost bestial. Campaigners against circumcision - and there are many - lament the barbarity, the trauma to the child, the loss of sexual pleasure for the adult and the lasting physical and psy-chological wounds.

The best-selling guide to child-care. Your Baby and Child by Penelope Leach, claims that some babies go into shock during circumcision, and that the procedure leaves some men with a life-long sense of being deformed. She says: "There is no possible good to balance out the probable harm."

I decided to disregard this advice and go ahead with a circumcision not just because I'm an unfeeling brute, but because we're Jewish and that's what Jews do. And also because - to be honest - I think uncircumcised penises look funny, and I don't really want my son to look different from me.

Jewish circumcisions are done by mohels (special circumcisers), most of whom have no formal medical training. Jewish boys are usually circumcised at the age of eight days, so after the birth we had to work quickly. A friend of ours who had recently had a son recommended a mohel from Stamford Hill in north London - an area which has become almost a Chasidic ghetto - so we called him.

The following day, a large Renault Espace pulled up outside our door. Out stepped two fat men with long beards and forelocks. They wore formal garb. Black silk kaftans belted



A mohel prepares to circumcise a new-born baby – wine is administered as an anaesthetic

around the waist, white stockings and polished black slippers. On their heads were the large, fur hats known as shtreimls. They looked as if they'd come straight out of central casting.

The older rabbi was called Rabbi Ashkenasy - it seemed an impertinence to ask his first name. My wife asked whether the baby would suffer any pain. The rabbi dismissed this suggestion contemptuously. He seemed to imply that there was nothing a Jewish boy liked better than to have the end of his penis hacked with a blade.

He said the only problem was that the mothers often became agitated, and this could communicate itself to the child. "I tell you this," he said. "When I hand him back, he will be

completely happy and peaceful." The rabbi gave us his card - on the back of which was a shopping list of things we had to provide for the operation. They included a sterile dressing-pack, six packs of gauze

swabs, five disposable nappies, cotton wool, a pillow, two prayer shawls. a bottle of Kedem Traditional Kiddush wine and an unopened bottle of olive oil. We also bought a tube of anaesthetic cream - although the

rabbi told us it would have no effect. The day of the circumcision arrived. For Jews, circumcisions usually involve a party - a bit like weddings or bar mitzvahs. I can't say I enjoyed this one very much.

The circumcision was held at my mum's house, which was packed with guests. We were late. My wife. Carol, dashed upstairs, and drank a large glass of whiskey - partly to calm her nerves and partly so that the alcohol in her milk would subdue the baby. She was too upset to face the crowds.

Half an hour later, the rabbi arrived with his assistant. They set up shop on a small card-table, bringing out bandages, surgical clips and beakers, as if they were about to perform a bloodthirsty conjuring trick. I brought the baby downstairs. It is regarded as a blessing to help did not faint. The rabbi then bent carry the baby to the circumcision, so he was passed through the crowd from hand to hand.

During the operation, it is traditional for the baby to be held by his Godfather. We had picked my wife's cousin Graham for this job. Unfortunately. Graham faints at the sight of blood. The rabbi assured Graham that he would be fine, so Graham sat there with a fixed smile on his face.

imagining he was somewhere else. The rabbi asked me what name I'd chosen for the baby. I told him we were calling him Nathan, which in Hebrew means "given". And then the rabbi called for hush and started chanting. As the rabbi recited the prayers, he grasped a clip from among the tools on the card-table and put it over the baby's foreskin, pulled it forward and, with a yank of his knife, the foreskin came off in one clean movement. The baby cried, blood flowed on to his penis and - as

Alain Bizos/Contact Press Images

over the baby and sucked the wound. I know this sounds awful, but it is part of the Jewish tradition. It's supposed to help the healing. He then gave the baby a few drops of kosher wine as a primitive anaesthetic.

The rabbi had lied to us. The baby was not at all happy and peaceful after the operation. He was in a horrible mood and whined intermittently for the next day or so. It was tricky changing his nappy - we used two nappies at a time to ensure that the wound wasn't disturbed. After a week, we were allowed to bathe the baby and the dressing floated off. His penis looked rather as one might have expected: a bloody mess. Over the next few days, the bruising went down and the penis began to look like

Do I have any regrets? None at all. Nathan is a happy, lively boy, And his penis? It's delightful - just like

#### POETIC LICENCE

THE EFFICIENCY SQUAD BY MARTIN NEWELL ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL HEATH

The Culture Secretary. Chris Smith, is to establish an Efficiency Squad to monitor the arts across the nation. The new unit. Quest. (Quality, Efficiency and Standards Team) will be made up of six civil servants reporting to Mr Smith from museums, galleries and theatr



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No one expects the Efficiency Squad They answer to themselves and God And plan their raids on certain days Descending on provincial plays, Museums, readings, galleries And various ballet companies

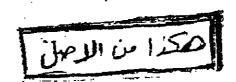
Their faces veiled by opera masks They grimly set about their tasks Abseiling down from colonnades With stun grenades in funding aids The three-year plans in structured bands Held tightly in their black-gloved hands

A spot inspection, back of shop Which gets an ASM the chop May reassign him from Der Ring To front-of-house in Burger King Where Brunhild slices onions thin And Siegfried pops the burgers in

No one expects the Efficiency Squad The mailed fist, the iron rod A squeal of brakes, the slam of doors The troop of boots on polished floors Museum directors dragged from beds To conjure figures from their heads

As orchestras vacate M pits With marching orders in their mitts A lone arranger goes through hell While trying to cope with William Tell His target budget pencilled in For triangle and violin

And art does not lie easily When bedded with efficiency As witnessed very recently With OUP sans poetry As subtle as a brickie's hod No one expects the Efficiency Squad





# The sonic saboteur

John Cale is one of music's great pioneers. Punk prototype, avant-garde composer, seminal producer - the founder member of the Velvet Underground has done it all. And he's not finished yet. By John L Walters

ne of the great forgotten moments in rock'n'roll history is John Cale's 1975 version of "Heartbreak Hotel". This terrifying re-invention of the Axton/Durden/Presley classic, made almost two decades after Elvis's era-defining original, focuses on the decadent, self-destructive nature of rock, glances back at the music's brief innocence, and anticipates the useless excitement of cover versions, recycling and insignificant posturing that was yet to come. Rock is dying. vou feel, and John Cale is one of its most skilled embalmers.

Some figures become so big, so influential, and so legendary that they cannot possibly live up to their reputation. In pop and rock music, David Bowie is one example, Phil Spector another. While ordinary musicians and producers can just get on with their lives, the legends are constantly competing with increasingly fictional versions of their earlier selves. Cale is something in between.

I first came up against the demilegend of Cale when producing a band who wanted "the sound of the first Velvet Underground and Nico album" - the one with the banana cover and Andy Warhol production credit. The first Velvets album was born of the volatile partnership of the musicianly, avant-garde Cale and the paranoid songsmith Lou Reed, but the sound seems to have been produced by default: a schizophrenic hotch-potch of styles, from the focused intensity of "Venus in Furs", through the scrappy, psychedelic boogie of "Rum, Rum, Rum", to the screeching angst of "Heroin".

That album was a commercial flop, but its badly recorded, droneladen incoherence has influenced and inspired dozens of terrible bands (and a few good ones). Nico's artless vocals grace a handful of tracks. Listening to songs such as "All Tomorrow's Parties", after reading something of Nico's wretched life and death in James Young's Nico: songs they never play on the radio, is a heart-breaking experience that transcends the limitations of the recording. You now it wasn't worth it.

from the vervet underground after Lou Reed issued a "me or him" ultimatum, his musical life has been one of great competence, with the prolific output of a professional who can make something of almost any situation. This has led him through a series of musical adventures, longer and more varied than most of rock's itinerant producer/performers, with the possible exception of Todd Rundgren. Yet where Rundgren produced Meatloaf's Bat Out of Hell, Cale produced Patti Smith's Horses, keeping critics busy scribbling for years.

Cale had an effective and affecting musical partnership with Nico. whose Cale-produced albums created - as fellow Cale-influenced producer Brian Eno points out in a BBC Wales documentary to be shown tomorrow night - an almost entirely separate genre: "a weird little oasis that they invented."

Whether you think that punk was the musical equivalent of Rauhaus, or just another way of



'I generally don't look back fondly at the things I've done,' says Cale. 'I still don't see a body of work that's coherent'

playing rock'n'roll badly (or both), you can't deny Cale's direct and indirect influence, inspiring punk and gloomy post-punk indie bands by the Ford Transit-load. And conceptually speaking, Cale was often there first. "Heartbreak Hotel" (which includes Chris Spedding. the ex-Nucleus guitarist who produced the Sex Pistols' first demos) Ever since Cale's rapid departure makes the Sid Vicious version of

way" sound feeble.

in Croydon chopping up a chicken with a cleaver. Despite all this, you feel that Gavin Turk, known for his waxwork of Vicious imitating Warhol's Elvis, is not going to follow up with a sculpture of Cale.

Maybe Cale's monument will be the autobiographical What's the Welsh for Zen, illustrated and designed by Dave McKean and cowritten by Cale and Victor Bockris

their grey Welshness will reveal some great truth about the Sixties New York underground. A local farmer is only vaguely aware of his former playmate's career: "I heard he was involved with a fellow called Andy Warhol who used to do all sorts of weird things and made a lot of money out of it."

John Cale makes a couple of walk-on appearances in the afore- to be published by Bloomsbury on mentioned James Young book about dious childhood in Garnant, Wales. During the late Seventies, Cale 14 January. Adrift in the Brecon Nico. First we meet him as an where he was born on 9 March, 1942. made several on-stage bids for Beacons, Bockris follows the Cale overweight, coke-snorting record. His miner father and schoolteacher punk immortality with outbreaks of trail, looking in awe at houses and producer who (unlike everyone else mother impressed upon him the Herman Nitsch-like excess, such as chapels and old neighbours as if in the book) has something resem-importance of study, diligence and

bling a career. Cale arrives, makes Nico's last album, Camera Obscuro, and splits. After a couple of years, and a few more chapters, Cale reappears like the prodigal guest in junkie soap opera, as a fit, abstemious and squash-playing solo performer, lecturing Nico's band about the evils of smoking and drinking on their Japanese tour.

The Cale story begins with a stu-

hard work, and his musical studies on piano, organ and viola took him first to Goldsmith's, in south London, and then - after a spate of letter-writing to famous composers - to New York.

In September 1963, Cale was one of 18 pianists who worked in shifts to perform the world première of Eric Satie's Verations, an unsettling piano fragment that fits on a single sheet of manuscript with the composer's instructions: "to be played 840 times." It was organised by the composer John Cage and the other planists included Philip Corner, James Tenney and David del Tredici, but it was a picture of Cage and the young Cale, in suit, tie and shades, that made the New York Times. Soon. Cale was part of LaMonte Young's obscure, but influential. Theatre of Eternal Music, which led to Lou Reed, Warhol, and eventually, commercial

In recent years, the lean, clean, budget-conscious Cale has had a greater involvement with the avantgarde milieu of his Sixties self, producing live scores to accompany the Warhol "one-shot" movies, Eat and Kiss, and developing a new multi-media work called Life Undersoater. He has just released a "classical" CD entitled Dance Music, which is a 12movement score commissioned by Scapino Rotterdam for Nico, a ballet choreographed by Ed Wubbe.

The Nico score is a surprise. With a superb performance from the Dutch ensemble Ice Nine, the work has an appealing mixture of maturity and freshness in the way it combines strings and rock instruments. particularly the outstanding guitar of Corrie van Binsbergen. In the slow "Ari Sleepy Too", the samples of Nico's pleading voice saying "Please. Come over here" or "Oh. Is that it?" sound moving rather than tacky or exploitative.

The forthcoming outbreak of gentle Cale-mania includes a trio performance at the Royal Festival Hali in January. Despite the fact that he is more celebrated - and in demand -as a producer than as a performer, he has churned out more than a dozen solo albums, building up a vast catalogue of songs that he is happy to play solo (accompanied by piano or guitar) or with a small team of sympathetic musicians, such as multi-instrumentalists Lance Doss and Mark Deffenbaugh, who accompany him next month. Island records is releasing Close Watch: An Introduction to John Cale, in January, and Yellow Moon/Diesel Motor is reissuing the 1979 Sabotage Live.

In the BBC film. Cale expresses doubts about the value of his work: "I generally don't look fondly back at the things that I've done. I still don't see a body of work that's coherent, maybe I never will, but it's a good motivator, because it reminds me of all the things I haven't done."

The ballet score shows Cale's dilemma: capable of renewing himself as a composer, he is still trapped by the fading glamour of Sixties Warhol Factory nostalgia. Despite that, he has done more than most viola players - and record producers - dream of

John Cale, 11.30pm, BBC2 tomorrow; John Cale's trio play the RFH. London on 21 January 1999 (booking: 0171-960 4242)

# Rough and ready

CLASSICAL

CHARLES ROSEN/ PETER KATIN WIGMORE HALL, LONDON

A BROKEN finger is as good a reason as any for cancelling a piano recital. Last Friday, Charles Rosen (who just happened to be in town) stepped into the breach left by the incapacitated Alfredo Perl for the BBC lunch-time recital, substituting his own choice of works by Beethoven: four of the Op 119 Bagatelles, followed by the "Appassionata" and Op 110 sonatas.

Rosen is one of the most brilliant writers about music today. He is, you might say, in a class of his own. As a pianist he is probably one of that breed who are too clever for their own good. He could probably play most of the standard repertoire by heart, short notice or not. But that does not make him an artist, and if he resents not being as highly esteemed in that capacity as for his writing, there are good reasons, as Friday's shabby recital made clear.

The outer movements of the "Appassionata" were rhythmically insecure and very roughly played, declining, in their most stressful moments, into a panicky fudge. The middle movement was plain and unlovely, to be endured rather than enjoyed. Indeed, Rosen himself didn't seem to be enjoying himself, nor did he take much interest in the sort of sound he was making, or in anything that ordinary, less intellectually-gifted mortals might identify as feeling.

He played the sublime A flat major sonata. Op 110, as if it were merely a mechanical construction. The only interesting point was some unusual balancing in the first fugue. Otherwise, Rosen's performance was routine. and barely that.

On Sunday afternoon, Peter Katin celebrated 50 years to the day since his Wigmore recital début with an attractively varied programme ranging from Scarlatti to Debussy and Rachmaninov. To begin, in three of Scarlatti's best-known sonatas. you might have put Katin's limited sense of adventure down to deference to the music's origins on an 18th-century harpsichord. By the end of Mozart's C minor Fantasy and Sonata, his small dynamic range and limp rhythm seemed merely timid. After the interval, three of

Rachmaninov's Preludes were under-projected, like paintings that lacked the finishing touches to give them life and presence. Debussy's Reflets dans l'eau was played, not like the great tone poem it is, but as a burbling salon item for people to talk over. Even Chopin's most relaxed Ballade. the third, needed firmer rhythmic support and, towards the end. more passionate attack in the right hand. And in the A flat Polonaise, the proud Polish cavairy seemed to have been reduced to a modest trot.

There is a repeat broadcast of Charles Rosen's recital on 19 December at 1pm on Radio 3 ADRIAN JACK

#### NOT BAD FOR A VIOLA PLAYER: JOHN CALE IN RETROSPECT

The Velvet Underground and Nico (1967, Verve) It may sound like a bunch of badly-recorded demos, but tracks such as "Heroin" and "Venus in Furs" provided the sonic blueprint for generations of manic-depressive nonmusicians.

White Light/White Heat (1968, Verve) Lou Reed's frantic voice dominates this Nico-less second album, which features "Sister Ray" and "The Gift".



(1974, Island) Features "Fear is a Man's Best friend" and "Momamma Scuba", in which he first tried

out the riff that would later drive "Heartbreak Hotel".

Siow Dazzie (1975, Island) A confident production, showing a maturing songwriting and arranging style. Features 'Heartbreak Hotel" and "Mr Wilson" (Beach Boy Brian, rather than Harold)

Fragments of a Rainy Season (1992, Hannibal) Introspective versions of Cale's back catalogue, accompanied solely by piano or guitar.

Eat/Kiss: Music for the films of Andy Warhol (1997, Hannibal) Variable collection of soundscapes, alternately beautiful and dumb.

Dance Music (1998, Detour) The ballet score to Nico, performed by Ice Nine.

Close Watch: An Introduction to John Cale (January 1999) Not exactly the "greatest hits" but a useful way to pinpoint the occasional brilliance.

# It'll all end in tirades

TO SAY that Ian McKellen was born to play the leading role in Noël Coward's Present Laughter may sound a bit of a backhanded compliment. For Garry Essendine, the selfdramatising, ageing matinee idol and Coward alter ego, is unscrupulous double standards in a dressing gown. Protected from reality by an doring and long-suffering entourage, he comes to feel that this cosy coterie is about to be split apart by predatory female sexuality.

It's telling that the woman who poses this threat is described as being "100 per cent female", as though this were self-evidently a major handicap to virtue. Odd, given that promiscuous impulses aren't thought to detract from Essendine's own charm. A wee touch of misogyny there, perhaps, in this insufficiently heterosexualised comedy a clef?

What removes my opening remark from the risk of a libel action is the fact that Garry has also to reek of the flamboyant natural authority that keeps the satellites spinning obediently round him, even when his weaknesses are an open book to them. If you can't establish that compelling sense of ego, then you are unable to convey the emential joke of the piece, which is that this arch control-freak farcically loses control during the play.

THEATRE

PRESENT LAUGHTER WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE, LEEDS

This is when McKellen comes up trumps. When Peter Bowles played the role recently, he projected all the self-involvement and queeny excitability of a Desmond Lynam, but he was driven-ness itself compared to Tom Conti's dozily narcissistic Garry a couple of years earlier.

By contrast, McKellen delivers a performance of hilariously combustible energy and unpredictable comic timing. "Don't be theatrical," he barks at one of his associates. throwing his arms up in a pose that would not disgrace the hammiest of Fascist dictators. You can always sense that he's a two-tirades-beforebreakfast merchant.

McKellen captures Garry wonderfully well, whether assuming a martyr's mask at moments of lesemajestė, or melodramatically chitching his heart as though it were being cruelly pecked at, and ungratefully declaring that his

devoted slaves are vultures. Ever the pampered favourite child, he eats marmalade straight from the dish and wheedlingly nuzzles his estranged wife (a warmly actressy Clare Higgins) stinctively starts arranging his hair



Stellar performance: Ian McKellen as Garry Essendine

sent. A man to whom the stage matters more than the heart, he can be slapped in the face by an irate cast-off one moment and then return to discussing contracts the next, in that mother-knows-best manner that the master patented. At the start of the second act, McKellen croons a snatch of one of Coward's most self-revealing songs, "I Travel Alone", its sentiment drolly undercut here because, as in later editions of yesterday's soon as the doorbell goes, Garry in-

until she gives him his holiday pre- in the mirror. But, then, Coward's hero is not essentially lonely; he's essentially empty.

After a nightmare rail journey to Leeds, I arrived at Malcolm Sutherland's unevenly cast production in a state of gibbering misanthropy. It says a lot for McKellen's stellar performance that it swiftly restored me to my usual golden good nature.

A version of this review appeared paper. Booking: 0113-213 7700 PAUL TAYLOR

# She knows a good 'un when she sees him

THE HERO of Peter Darrell's ballet Cinderella is the quiet, gentle Prince Ramiro, who is more interested in books than court occasions; you could almost imagine him talking to the plants in the palace gardens which form a major part of John Fraser's gorgeously pretty designs. A fortuitously appearing good fairy persuades him to exchange disguises for a masked ball with his more flighty equerry Dandini, which fools everyone except Cinders. She knows a good man when she sees one, and deservedly gets him in the end.

Making the ballet, nearly 20 years ago, Darrell and his musical collaborator Bramwell Tovey took some of their inspiration from Rossini's opera La Cenerentola, the rest from other versions of the story and other Rossini music (opera ballets and late piano pieces). This welcome revival by Scottish Ballet shows again how well they succeeded in blending fairytale magic, traditional fun and real-life romance.

The comedy is lightly handled; no ugly sisters here but a handsome though nasty pair of stepsisters. And Cinderella, although put upon by her family, is no drudge but a

DANCE CINDERELLA FESTIVAL THEATRE

**EDINBURGH** 

pretty girl who gets her own invitation to the ball and then sees it torn up by stepmother, who thinks her not grand enough. What this Cinderella has, more than any other version. is a stream of vivid, attractive, expressive and virtuosic dances that tax the dancers but also show them off beautifully.

Darrell had a brilliant gift for story-telling, and each dance episode pushes the plot along while also throwing light on the characters. Like another of his ballets that was revived earlier this year, The Tales of Hoffmann, the work suits Scottish Ballet's dancers well and gives them a big, classic show that is uniquely theirs.

It is incredible to think that the company was threatened with closure not much more than a year ago. It looks in good shape, and from the strong first-night cast nobody would have guessed that two principal dancers had to drop out

(they are expected back soon).

Yurie Shinohara shows a sweet, touching sincerity as Cinderella, her dancing always shiny bright, and delightfully grand in the big final duet, where Campbell McKenzie's partnering makes the most startling lifts look easy. Campbell subdues his naturally big, assertive personality in the Ramiro role, but loses no edge from his strong dance exuberance, which is well matched by Yi-Lei Cai's swift, smiling agility as Dandini.

Anne Christie, Elspeth Shaw and Linda Packer get a lot of fun out of Cinderella's monstrous step-family. And, as always. Darrell's choreography makes much of the whole supporting company, who somehow convey the impression of an enormous cast as they fill the stage with wide-ranging corps de ballet numbers or a dazzling sextet dressed as exotic birds to entertain the guests at the ball. Whoever takes over shortly as Scottish Ballet's new artistic director has a fine base to build on, both in repertory and in artists.

JOHN PERCIVAL

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# FILM

# Bite. Chew. Swallow. Gulp!

Film critics see themselves as... well, how do they see themselves? As harbingers of the truth? As Freudian analysts? As directors in waiting? In the fifth part of our week-long series on criticism, we explore their dark and lonely world. By Adam Mars-Jones

he sheer newness of film means that it has been absorbed by different cultures in different ways, sending down its deepest roots in America. the country with the shortest history. In France, for instance, they do things differently: film is accorded parity with the other art forms by the invention of an extra protective muse, the 10th, and writing about cinema fits into a dense preexisting dialogue of philosophy and rhetoric. If you read an article that asserts, with a sort of reductive bravado, that Stanley Kubrick's The Shining is less a film than a deconstruction of Jack Nicholson's smile, you are likely to be reading French

The British approach to films has tended to be coolly literary, favouring script and performances at the expense of the other things a film contains. In this, our criticism has paralleled our film-making (with reg-



THE CRITICAL CONDITION

ular exceptions, such as Hitchcock and Lean), though we can more confidently claim to have the virtues that correspond to our vices. The tone of British cinema criticism has generally been polite rather than impassioned, balanced rather than partisan; when the late Dilys Powell, whose reviewing career spanned well over half a century, wrote about films, her readers were not bombarded with her opinions, but could be quite clear about whether she liked a film, or merely admired it. She didn't need to raise her voice.

Criticism has always itself been criticised, as being essentially an act of revenge by the uncreative on the creative - a seductive argument that is refuted by the history of New Wave Cinema in France in the stormed the imaginary barricades and became film-makers in their own right. A sniping opposition became a radical government almost overnight. A colony of parasites declared its independence.

Film is an inherently expensive medium, so most budding film-makers have to wait some time before getting their hands on a camera, but perhaps criticism can clear the ground creatively by giving an artist some foretaste of his predilections and aversions (the French directors, by and large, aligned themselves with American cinema, and a new and flattering reading of Hitchcock).

All the same, the New Wave phenomenon hasn't been duplicated elsewhere on anything like the same scale. Paul Schrader, for instance, writer of Taxi Driver and



case. He was brought up in a religious environment, in which films were disapproved of, and his pent-up enthusiasm once he discovered what he had been missing Fifties. A whole generation of critics, carried him beyond the category of mere spearheaded by Truffaut and Godard. fan. But perhaps for a truer repetition of the New Wave event, a culture is required that takes criticism seriously, as something that need not be a secondary activity.

British critics are more likely to see themselves as scriptwriters manqués than directors in the making. Penelope Gilliatt, for a long time a film critic for The New Yorker, wrote the screenplay for Schlesinger's successful and influential Sunday Bloody Sunday, but it seems unlikely that she ever had designs on the director's chair.

The hyper-inflated economics of film means that, nowadays, a bad review of a film will be visually cancelled by a large advertisement on the same page bristling with quintuple stars (you can find someone to give five stars to pretty much anything). Academic film criticism is very

much a minority pastime, now that the have been swallowed up or limp along medium has been losing fashionability to pop culture. The magazines that used to support interestingly hybrid writing, on the

from issue to issue.

In the Seventies, for instance, it was possible to read an article in New Society cusp of reviewing and true criticism, about Jaws, which argued that Spiel-

both Marathon Man and Jaws caused critics to become rather down in the mouth about teeth

berg's blockbuster was essentially about bodying the *vagina dentata* of phobic male quite be dismissed. It was possible to read an article in Sight and Sound analysing Marathon Man in terms of its imagery of ritual cleansing. The argument was carefully mounted: the film starts on Yom Kippur, the day of atonement; the hero's brother dies in an ornamental fountain; the climax takes place in a sewer, down which the villain's atrociously acquired wealth of

diamonds is sluiced. I remember reading this particular article, and resisting it quite fiercely, insisting mentally that Marathon Man was a fairly undistinguished thriller, relying on nothing much more fancy than people's fear of having their teeth assaulted by Nazis with dental drills. But the preposterous argument has stayed with me, and has enriched the film, rather against my will, with a layer of unsuspected meaning

But if British film culture in the Nineties is relatively impoverished, we can still boast of having given two major figures to the world, that is, to America: Quentin Crispand David Thomson. Crisp's idiosyncratic criticism is now widely published, but he started writing it at the instigation of the editor of New York's Christopher Street, the flagship magazine of the gay movement, which he both contests and is:

Crisp's reviews are polite, even when a they are deadly - he will find something nice to say about something, and if that means complimenting the spotlessness of the toilet in the cinema where he happened ... to see the film, so be it. He prefers to use surnames prefixed by "Mr" or "Miss" - a - 8 piece of gallantry that has the effect of revealing the campiness of many one-word names (Mr Sting, Miss Madonna). His in agenda is clear: for him, any film at all is to better than real life, but a good movie can 2: provide a set of imaginary standards to live ... by; better yet, to dream by. He wants glamour rather than realism, and romance : rather than tawdry consummation. He wants dreams rather than grit, because for .... him - and he puts his case unsurpassably -cinema is not about truth, but about compensation; and he can do grit for himself.

David Thomson's way of looking at: 1-1 films is very different, alert to money, to pole :: \* 7 itics, to biography, but no less creative and subversive. In his novel Suspects, for instance, he takes as his characters the characters of films noirs (from Double ... Indemnity to Body Heat), unweaves their stories, and then reweaves them, to produce a composite portrait of American dysfunction and darkness. The cumulative effect is extraordinary; the hero of American Gigolo turns out, in Thomson's version, to be the son of the Faye Dunaway character in Chinotown.

Thomson revisits the cliché of the critic as parasite, but he is a sly sort of parasite, incubating his fantasies inside other people's films. I can't be the only person who dreads the scene in The Godfather Part II where Kay Corleone (Diane Keaton) is raped by her estranged husthe fear of female sexuality, with the sav- band's goons on his orders, to stop her age orifice of the Great White Shark em- making trouble - a scene that of course exists only in Suspects, but has success fantasy - a perverse reading that can't fully been grafted from one imaginary world on to another.

Thomson's most recent project is just as bold. In his book on the Alien series of films, he sets out to emend them where they fall short of his standards. So he offers in alternate sections the Alien Resurrection that viewers were offered. cinemas, and the Alien Resurrection that they deserved, and that the logic of the earlier films required. It's hard to imagine a higher achievement for film criticism than this one: remaking a movie, in people's: heads at least, while it's still new

Tomorrow: Andy Gill on rock, and Edward ::: Seckerson on classical music criticism

# And God said, let there be light relief

PERHAPS THE old stories are still the best. Evidently the DreamWorks studio hopes so: they have looked to one of the oldest of them all, Erodus, as inspiration for their muchtrumpeted The Prince of Egypt, an animated musical epic on which Jeffrey Katzenberg, one of the DreamWorks triumvirate, has staked his reputation. If it should fail, it will not be through lack of preparation or ambition. Short of God himself, no film could have a more formidable figure at its centre than Moses, not just the hero of Judaeo-Christian tradition but a man once portrayed on screen by Charlton Heston himself. It doesn't come grander than that.

The Moses story is also perfect for Hollywood, in that it's one of those coming-of-age struggles that wires directly into the American dream of selfrealisation and the national appetite for saving the world. Beginning with the infant Moses's famous basket ride down the Nile and subsequent rescue by Pharaoh's wife, the film concentrates on the relationship between Moses (voiced by Val Kilmer) and his step-brother Rameses (Ralph Fiennes). It's a small but significant change from the Bible. which had Pharaoh's daughter adopting Moses - by making them brothers the film-makers

THE BIG **PICTURE** 



ANTHONY Quinn THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

DIRECTORS: BRENDA

CHAPMAN, SIMON WELLS, STEVE HICKNER STARRING: VAL KILMER. RALPH FIENNES, MICHELLE PFEIFFER 99 MINS

plex relationship between the adoptive son and the royal heir. In its early stages we see them as rumbustious young scamps, haring around construction sites in a breakneck chariot race (very Ben-Hur) and dropping water bombs on to the heads of temple priests.

Two very different aspects of the film begin to emerge. The first is the architectural grandeur of Pharaoh's empire, a symphony in cool beige stone with Kane-like, deep perspectives and vertiginous drops. forge a closer and more com- Humans are dwarfed to ant-like plaining to Moses his own nar-



The Moses story is perfect for Hollywood: a classic coming-of-age struggle

insignificance by the towering verticals, pyramids and sphinxes. Elsewhere, the production design nods proudly to a variety of influences - the etchings of Gustave Doré, Monet's paintings, Cecil B DeMille's The Ten Commandments and the wide-screen immensity of David Lean (this is the sandiest film since Lawrence of Arabia). Most compelling of all, and the best demonstration of the animators' art, is the nightmarish epiphany of a palace fresco coming to life and ex-

massacre. It's a cartoon version of a flashback, yet it achieves a hallucinatory horror that is unmatched even by the film's other great set-piece, a spectral plague whipping around streets and through doors to claim the first-born of every household. The second and more prob-

lematic dimension of the film is the failure of the music to complement the drama. There are sequences of coruscating emotional force in The Prince of Egypt - Moses acknowledging

row escape from the Pharaoh's himself to Moses from the burning bush; the Nile turning blood red; Rameses laying out his dead son as Moses looks on in sorrowing compassion. If ever a film composer had the opportunity to make a name for himself, it's here. Yet Stephen Schwartz's weedy, unadvenabout rendering these scenes with the requisite intensity, and that includes the overwrought warbling of Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston on "When You Believe". Only once does a

perform the duet "Playing With the Big Boys" - a sinister in-vocation of the Egyptian deities - though it's as much their cabaret turn as the temple priests which quickens the in-

Comic relief is otherwise thin on the ground; the idea of Disney-style anthropomorphism was clearly judged inappropriate (allegedly, the role of a talking camel gave somebody the hump - it ended up on the cutting-room floor). An air of cautiousness hangs over the film; little wonder given the number of consultants the DreamWorks team recruited - ministers, clerics, rabbinical scholars and experts were invited to give their two-penn'orth, and the feeling of storytelling-by-committee is hard to ignore. While the fear of offending is understandable, the earnest tone seems to squeeze much of the life from the film, and this despite the vocal stylings of Jeff Goldblum, Michelle Pleiffer, Sandra Bullock and Patrick Stewart. Give credit nonetheless: the film-makers cover 70 years of Moses's life in an hour and a half, and manage to invest it with a numinous authority. Indeed. The Prince of Egypt has all the gravitas it can handle: what's missing, ironically enough, is not weight but vitality - animation, in a word. On release from tomorrow

RUSHES 🍃

and deeply distasteful," said Anthony Hopkins. The traumatic sight of the 60-year-old actor bursting out of his cummerbund in The Mask of Zorro has indeed been too much for many cinema audiences, but the actor wasn't referring to his appearance in his latest

UK release, Showbiz, in fact, was the butt of his ire as Hopkins announced his retirement from acting at a press conference in Rome last weekend. In a remarkably frank farewell to his profession, Hopkins declared: "I've got to get out because I think acting is very bad for one's mental health," adding, "I can't take it any more. This has got to stop, I have wasted my life." He wasn't joking. He called showbiz "this futile wasteful life", before dismissing practically every film he'd been in as "a complete waste of time". "After 35 years I look back and cringe with embarrassment and say to myself, How the bell could you have done that?" His disillusionment set in about five years ago, he said, since when he's been in a deep depression over acting". Hopkins said that the

conclusion early next year

TIRESOME, DISTURBING of his contribution to the big-screen version of Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus, will formally mark the end of his acting career. Fortunately, "tiresome" showbiz has left him with plenty of cash to indulge in his plans for the future: "I'm interested in music, I write and I'm just going to drop out."

> EDWARD NORTON, by far the best thing about the recent Rounders, is set to direct his first film, says Variety. Keeping the Faith is a romantic comedy, with a budget of around \$30m, in which Norton will also star alongside Ben Stiller. The former will play a Catholic priest and the latter a rabbi, both of whom fall in love with the same woman. That role. expected to be hotly contested, has yet to be cast.

VARJETY ALSO reports that Kenneth Branagh has cast Alicia Silverstone in his forthcoming film adaptation of Love's Labours Lost. Branagh himself will star and direct, and is expected to transform Shakespeare's comedy into a 1930s musical comedy.

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Soul Lili Marken, C

# He shoots aliens, doesn't he?

Well, yes, Will Smith is amply gifted with that ability. And now he is poised to take over the world. How? By doing proper acting. By Sarah Gristwood

plays in Enemy of the State, a densely plotted thriller from the Jerry Bruckheimer/ Tony Scott stable, was first shown to Tom Cruise. That is because "Tom gets to look at just about everything in that age group". says Bruckheimer. But Cruise was tied in to the never-ending shoot of Stanley Kubrick's Eyes Wide Shut, and Smith was next in line. He is in that league and making that money (Bruckheimer guesses that \$14m is "close" to Smith's Enemy fee).

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It is also significant, of course, that Smith is readily cast in roles that are not colour-specific. At 30, he's turning into the hero who most reflects the all-American idealised identity; it's no coincidence that he's had a run of films, from Men in Black to next summer's release, The Wild, Wild West, a spin-off of the Seventies TV series that is scheduled for release on 4 July. He says he can find the loke both black and white audiences will find funny - albeit not necessarily for the same reason.

He has also said that being black in fact an asset in Hollywood today.
Once you've broken through the first slight block, you're a fixture in Hollywood. For myself, Denzel [Washington], Eddie Murphy, Larry Fishburne, our position is a lot more solid because there are so few of us. More solid than Matthew Mc-Conaughey or Chris O'Donnell, or even Leonardo DiCaprio. Because there's a thousand guys sitting there waiting for Leo to turn down a good piece of work. Also, with actors of ethnicity, there's an entire community of people willing you to succeed." But does Smith really need moral support? He grew up in the middle-

had come out of the army. One day, his father tore the brick off the front of the family's huge icehouse and told 12-year-old Will and his vounger brother, Harry, that they had to rebuild it. Six months later, when the sons had finished their father said to them: "Now don't ever tell me there's nothing you can't do." It worked. Smith still talks of his career in terms of careful construction. "My ace in the hole is my dangerously obsessive drive," he told American Premiere recently.

Like Tom Hanks, Smith doesn't threaten a man's virility or a woman's sense of security

"He's been a success at everything he's done, from the time he was 15 years old," Bruckheimer says. "He's tall, he's handsome; he's at ease with himself and effortless in manner." It's the picture, in some ways, of a bland man. But bland isn't bad, necessarily. Tom Hanks once told me the secret of his success: "I don't threaten any man's sense of virility, or any woman's sense of security or decorum." The same could be said of Smith - and it's a surprisingly versatile quality. In Enemy of the State, he is the hero to Jon Voight's baddie. But: "The thing about Jon Voight is that he's really the sweetest guy. If he rang your doorbell and said his car had broken down, you wouldn't think twice about letting him in. I think I

have that same sort of energy." Smith started early in the music clubs, turning out rap that was edgy

phia, the son of a businessman who to play in Peoria. At 18, he was rich and on the road, and though he didn't do drugs, the people he was around weren't exactly squeaky clean. By the time he was 20, though, he was through all that: "ready to settle down and have a family

He was 21 when he took his rap character, the Fresh Prince, into the network TV sitcom Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Music videos apart, he had never acted, but the producer Quincy Jones persuaded NBC that he could do it. Smith, meanwhile, set about convincing himself.

He took acting lessons and studied tapes of other actors. His first film role was a small part in Where the Day Takes You, a 1992 film about LA street kids. His first important one was as the gay conman in Six Degrees of Separation, a role so unlikely that he reckoned it wouldn't matter if he failed. Needless to say, he didn't - he lists it as his only real acting credential pre-Enemy - but he also took flak for refusing to kiss another male actor on the mouth. Not a mistake he would make today.

His breakthrough was Bad Boys, the summer action hit of 1995. He always reckoned the way to be the greatest movie star ever "would be to combine Eddie Murphy, Tom Hanks and Arnold Schwarzenegger", he told Premiere. He'd done comedy; he'd now done action. He'd always, like Hanks, been "the regular guy". What was missing was the pure acting. That's why he took Enemy.

"When I came off Independence Day on to Men in Black, I don't think people had any doubt I could fight aliens. But Enemy of the State is more of an acting role. Any time you're in a film with people who have dream." Living outside LA with his 'Academy Award winning actor' be-



chills. But once you dive into the scenes, you find it lifts you."

He may - and it would be an important rite of passage - be about to play an African-American hero, Muhammad Ali. "We met a few months ago, and he said, 'You're almost pretty enough to play me'."

But he still says that "music is the most personal thing - it's about me. As an actor you're more a tool for a director. It's about someone else's actress wife, Jada Pinkett, baby

son by a first marriage to Sheree Zampino), he has his own recording studio in the house - along with his own golf course, and all the appartus needed to ensure star privacy.

"There are things I have to defend myself against. The other day someone set a camera up in the bushes at my house. I have to have someone check the phones. But in LA, for the most part, you can hang out. If I go into Tower Records, well, Arnold Schwarzenegger just left." But the

"Like they say, the sum is greater than the parts and it often feels like there are more than two people famous in our house. One plus one equals five... People want the pictures that much more. It must have been the same with Bruce and

Ask about his plans and you get a joke for an answer. "Run for President - I think I'd win." It is a joke, presumably? He has a shopping list of possible future movies, including a re-Jaden, and Trey (his five-year-old identity compounds their visibility. make of A Star is Born, with the roles 26 December

Demi." The comparison is not un-

reasonable, really,

reputedly changed so that he'd play

what used to be the woman's part. "We're talking to Whitney Houston about the film; as for the part, someone suggested that concept, but we don't quite know what all the ramifications would be. I think in the end you've got to go for the Kris Kristofferson role - the drunk, someone who's frivolously frittering their

It certainly wouldn't be typecasting. Not by a long way. Enemy of the State' is released on

# Beneath the underdog

iner Werner Fassbinder. Not a very nice man, by all accounts. However, a major London retrospective of his films in the new year will enable us to examine his talent, which was immense. By Geoffrey Macnab

AFTER HIS death aged 37 in 1982, Rainer Werner Fassbinder was enshrined as the sacred monster of European cinema. No new article about him failed to mention his voracious consumption of alcohol and drugs, or his despotic behaviour towards friends and colleagues. Biographers, journalists and old colleagues did for him what Albert Goldman did for Elvis, mythologisins his excesses, and slowly turning into a grotesque comic-book figure in the process. Fassbinder was the overgrown baby, flabby and softskinned. ("The tantrums he threw, even while in the bath, made the resemblance undeniable," wrote his spurned lover, Kurt Raab.) He was the sadist, once beaten up by his own film crew for continually trying to humiliate a colleague. He was the tormented, suicidal bisexual.

Fassbinder's widow, Julianne Lorenz, wants us to stop concentrating on the life ("it's so unintellectual"). She edited all Fassbinder's films from Despair (1977) onwards, and was sharing an apartment with him in Munich when he died. Her punt of living and working with bird doesn't tally at all with the myth. "We led a normal, normal life. We got up, we ate, we went to work, we came home, we went to restaurants. Sometimes he was very honest with people and it hurt them. But I never found him a monster."

Next month's retrospective at London's National Film Theatre, organised in collaboration with the Fassbinder Foundation (which Lorenz now runs) includes all of the director's film and television work. It ought, at the very least, to remind cinemagners what a protean talent Fassbinder's was. The season includes little-seen Westerns (Whity), science-fiction films (World on a Wire), period pieces and television dramas, as well as all the movies that made Fassbinder the darling of the festival circuit - films such as The Marriage of Maria Braun, Fear Eats the Soul, Lili Marleen, Querelle

and Veronika Voss.

Novel, made in 1979-80, he is played by Günter Lamprecht as the reliable,



Fassbinder on the set of 'Querelle'

As one critic put it, he was West Ger- honest everyman. His counterpart many's Balzac. Between 1966 and 1982 he made dozens of films that probed the reality of life in the brave new post-war world - a German Comédie Humaine. His movies revealed the racism of the society, its intolerance towards sexual difference, and its troubled relationship with the not-so-distant Nazi past.

An outcast himself, Fassbinder stood up for types regarded as pariahs or nonentities. His favourite figure in fiction was Franz Biberkonf. the former convict released from Tegel prison into the maeistrom of Twenties Germany in Alfred Döblin's Modernist masterpiece, Berlin Alexanderplatz. Biberkopf is the little man as hero, a well intentioned none-too-bright figure stumbling through life, always being dragged down. In Fassbinder's 13part television adaptation of the novel, made in 1979-80, he is played

(Gottfried John), with whom he falls in love, is the absolute opposite unctuous, dissembling and disloyal. According to John, each man is the other's alter ego. "I think that's

An outcast himself, Fassbinder stood up for types regarded as pariahs or nonentities

what fascinated [Fassbinder] about the original novel: the good personality and the negative one who are absolutely one and the same."

He may speak up for losers and outcasts, but he seldom sentimentalises or patronises them. As the film historian Thomas Elsaesser notes in his book Fassbinder's Germany, "one finds [in his work] an almost Bunuelian vision of the rights of out-

casts and underdogs to be as mean, inhuman and evil as anyone else." Some of his characters behave with a viciousness that can hardly even be countenanced. You think, for instance, of the lacerating psychodrama in The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant (1972) or the casual brutality shown towards the Greek work-

er in Katzelmacher (1969). But the films often also contain moments of great delicacy. There is a magical (if slightly kitsch) scene in Veronika Voss in which the sports state. She hopes to restore them. reporter comes to the aid of the exmovie star caught in a rainstorm. "Umbrella and protection," she smiles at him, as if he is an oldfashioned knight. As a rule, though, the women characters in his films are stronger and more complex than the men. "To my mind, women don't exist to turn men on. They don't have this function of merely being objects - that is one aspect of the

cinema I really despise," he said.

Hanna Schygulla, Irm Hermann, Barbara Sukova and Ingrid Caven all became international stars on the back of performances in his films. Fassbinder was inspired by Holly-

wood melodrama and Brechtian theatre in equal measure. His range of influences was immense and often baffling. At the start of his career, when he was trying unsuccessfully to get into film school, he suggested that the play he most wanted to adapt for the screen was John Mortimer's Lunch Break. At first glance, the idea of the rebellious wunderkind of German cinema tackling a play by the creator of Rumpole is wildly improbable, but many of his projects were equally unlikely. Whoever would have imagined that he would want to make an austere, black-and-white adaptation of a classic 19th-century novel such as Fontane's Effi Briest, or that he'd tackle Nabokov, in Despair?

Fassbinder's films are often rough. They were made at such speed that they could hardly be otherwise. Even towards the end of his career, when he was working with bigger budgets, he still struck a ferocious tempo. Lorenz recalls that Lola was made in 24 days. She edited while the film was shooting and had the final cut ready two days after shooting was complete. The Marriage of Maria Braun took 30 days, "which was a lot for Rainer".

Both Despoir and his final film. Querelle, were shortened to meet the whims of the producers, who refused to accept films more than two hours long. Lorenz insists that they were much stronger in their original Who knows? The next Fassbinder retrospective may boast "director's cuts" of both. In the meantime, audiences should reacquaint themselves with the director. They'll find that, 18 years on from his death, his films are as uplifting, infuriating and entertaining as ever.

The Fassbinder Retrospective is at the National Film Theatre, London throughout January and February

#### DOUBLE BILL

ROWAN WOODS, DIRECTOR OF 'THE BOYS', ON HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING



WORLD WITHOUT SUN DIR. JACQUES COUSTEAU

WHEN FATHER WAS AWAY ON BUSINESS DIR. EMIR KUSTURICA (1985)

MY CHOICE is based on

having only ever seen one A Clockwork Orange – since when I have seen films separately. I hated them as a double bill. They rubbed up against each other. I was exhausted after Deliverance and so there was no punch left by the time I got to A Clockwork Orange. I would never choose to see two story films back to back, especially two really good features; it's sacrilege to have one in your mind and for it to infuse the next film. That's why I would choose to see a documentary and a fictional film together, so there wouldn't be

such conflict. Jacques Cousteau's World Without Sun is an obscure documentary about how Cousteau and his team inhabited an underwater village. It was an extraordinary scientific experiment. They built an underwater habitation to see what would happen, to see whether they could live underwater for weeks on end.

When Father Was Away On Business is one of my favourites of all time. It's a beautiful film about an



extended family in Yugoslavia.

presenting this wonderful world surrounding one family alongside a potent political allegory. The story is very moving; it's about a man who is removed from his family, his wife, children and grandparents, because he is suspected of being a political agitator. It's set in relation to a communist regime very like latter-day East Germany. The guy's brother-in-law is a member of the Communist Party and he is informed on by him. It's about a family put under terrible pressure. Not only are they two

different genres of film, but they couldn't be further apart; the documentary is nonpolitical and nonconfrontational, in stark contrast to the potent fiction with its strong political allegory. Plus the Cousteau film is a particularly lyrical documentary, when you most often expect a documentary to be more political than fiction.

For me, the problem with double bills is how they make you watch films. It goes back to film school and film festivals; inevitably, you begin to obsess over the comparisons and contrasts between films and their modes of storytelling. They shouldn't be analysed on anything other than their own merits. It's a philosophical point of view it's about wanting to see a film in the purest possible way.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

# EDUCATION

For most of us, the Christmas Day carols sung by boys from King's College School in Cambridge are an oasis of calm. Gillian and Charles Perkins describe how, as choristers' parents, their lives are turned upside down by preparations and performances.

# What the little angels are really like

starts early for a family of choristers. The boys' hearsals must start some while back, but even for us at home, it starts to feel like Christmas a good 10 days before. The famous televised Carols from King's (broadcast from the chapel at King's College, Cambridge) was filmed last year on Sunday 14 December, and all of us parents of boys at King's College School, trooped into the chapel along with lots of other admirers of the choir, friends and college members. Before we start, have to be rehearsed too, just in case we have forgotten how the lines of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" go from last year (as if we could). The director Stephen Cleobury's jovial reminders are much the same every year and then there's always the question of the balance. Will the boys be able to match our loudest singing with their descant lines?

That's when Christmas begins for us - the first sound of those wellloved descants ringing around the vaulting, even just for the balance test, always brings back memories of all sorts of Christmases and the hopes for this one too.

After that comes the first of many anticipations. Which boy is going to sing "Once in Royal David's City" on telly? We never know, (nor do they), until they have processed in and Stephen's chosen chorister is very quietly signed to come forward. Last year our older son, John, was head chorister and we shared in his gentle rivalry with the other boys and in the friendly anticipation among the other parents. It was not something we were looking forward to, because we knew that several of the boys could do a splendid job. In the end it was down to three possibles, and two had to be disappointed, John among them. Edward does it really well, with no trace of nerves.

After all the media attention and photographs, it must be hard for the boys to go back into ordinary school the next day, but that's life. The next time we see them is later the same Smith Square in London. There they sing a selection of music, with Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" one of the highlights. The older boys process in singing that, leaving the youngest boys, including our second son Oliver, sitting on the platform waiting for them. Even they seem self-assured and unbothered by the crowded church. The older boys sing solos in the Britten, and in an anthem by Orlando Gibbons. The highlight of the evening, for the boys at least, is the presence of Mr Bean in the audience.

We drive them back to Cambridge afterwards, and enjoy a car full of boyish gossip and excitement, some of it about their trip by train to Edinburgh the next day. There they repeat the St John's concert, and return to Cambridge by train on Friday, grateful for the kindness of their hosts and the audience at the Queen's Hall.

Then we have two lovely and very noisy days at home. John and Oliver



ek ou the platform of St John's Playtime for chorister Uliver Perkins (centre) and his form-mates at King's College School Cambridg

still have the energy to get into the more common Christmas mode: "Can we have a really BIG tree this year? Can we go shopping for presents? No. Mum. you're not to come. Have you made fudge yet? Why not, haven't you had time? Can we have more cards to send? Can I add this to my Christmas list?" And so the merry chaos envelops us all, and in two days flat we get our own Christmas sorted out.

But the whole thing has to go back on hold again – the boys must return to school on Sunday! Fortunately not for work, but so that they can fit in their annual panto visit with the Cleoburys that evening. This year the star of Cambridge's panto is Otis the Aardvark, a great favourite with all the boys!

Monday sees them back at work with yet another Christmas concert. this time at the Royal Albert Hall in London when, with quite a large

them from so far away give a stun- we take longer than we mean to getning account of some of this year's ting ourselves into college, and by favourite carols. Yet again, there's that time the rain is starting to ease not a seat to be had. They go back : off. We catch up with the boys for five to school on the coach, so that they minutes or so when they tumble out can begin work in earnest the next from practice around 12.30pm, and morning when the final practices start for the real Nine Lessons and Carols service of Christmas Eve.

That leaves us at home with just one day to wrap presents, make up beds for guests and final food shopping. Pick up the turkey from the butcher, make the stuffing, cook the ham, all those things which my mother did years ago, and which we still do. A busy day, since we have three other chorister families coming to stay, and beds need to be moved and put-you-ups put up.

Wednesday 24 December dawns, not cold, but very windy. King's Col-lege is quite the windlest place in town as we queue outside the chapel. And it starts to rain. We shall gathering of other parents, we watch get wet before we are done, though

there is much laughter and betting on who is going to sing "that solo" again. Bets are on the star of the television show doing a repeat, and John is more worried about his solo in the newly commissioned carol by Thomas Ades. There's some doubt about which chorister will read the first lesson, too; Geoffrey, one of the senior boys, has

ing to do. While they go off to have lunch at school, we manage to keep warm thanks to our bring-and-share picnic. Mulled wine in a Thermos

laryngitis and is not going to be able

to read loudly enough. It sounds as

if Ben, another boy in his last year,

will have some emergency practic-

for the public - pride of place goes to a number of ex-choristers who have been camping all night, it seems. Thankfully, the chapel staff have been looking after them, but they are all clearly very wet and bedraggled. Meanwhile, we hear that this year's choristers have been seen having a game of footie back at school, now that it has stopped raining. They must be getting very muddy, but no doubt will be cleaned up before they have to walk back to college.

More sedately, the choral scholars, the men of the choir. come to serenade us during their lunch break with close harmony versions of carols and of "Chattanooga Choo-choo" and the like. Then we wait, and wait, and at last are let into the warmth of the chapel. It fills up so quickly, and is absolutely crammed with all those flask is a real help, as is the company who have waited far longer than us

of good friends. In the real queue - lucky ones. That final anticipation is awesome - but on the dot of 3pm, in they come. Edward is chosen again, and off he goes, singing as if there were nothing special about it all, even though he's being listened to by so many millions around the world. How different this is from childhood memories of decorating the tree on Christmas Eve, and listening to that famous opening. Little did we ever dream that we would be part of it in years to come. The familiar procession of lessons and carols flows over us: and however many times we hear them, they still give us an opportunity to remember the basis of

> And afterwards, well, there's tea in college first. The boys rush into salmon sandwiches and chocolate meringues - heaven help the college caterer who decides such things are not necessary - no matter how many times we tell them row and Rugby

Christmas festivities.

that they have dinner in less than two hours. We wander back to school where we parents have aganised silly party games - just in case any of the boys has any surplus energy. Then comes Christmas din ner for all the chorister families, wh are more like one big family with around 70 of us all told. Grammie uncles, older brothers, and your sisters all come.

Afterwards, tradition has it that the head chorister's father pays trail ute to the boys, but never serious ly. Our send-up of them all this year is very loosely based on *Snow* W and her 20 or so Helpers. Head choristers give out staff presents, too. guides to help them manage the neg computers, musical boxes of "Wa to teach the world to sing" and sil hats are clear favourites with the boys if not the recipients.

Other parents give out the annu spoof awards to some of the boys celebrate their achievements a exploits; the Really Wild Award given to Geoffrey who collected if most creepy-crawlies in his b room on the summer tour Barbados. Then there's one of the boys' favourites, the John Boulter Bucket Award, which is name after the long suffering chape administrator. Generally given to the unfortunate member who's been sick the most times during the year this year it's translated into the Toronto Lampshade Award and given to the luckless boy whi mistook a large lampshade for waste bin at Toronto airport on the summer tour.

We leave the boys watching the video of the televised carols shown earlier in the evening - it's difficu to watch, let alone hear properly wil all their ribald comments as accompaniment. Even when we get home without them, Christmas Eve night is not exactly quiet either. The other parents and ex-choristers staying overnight with us chat over a glass of this and that for quite, a long time into the night.

Christmas morning is another early start; for the boys, the chase around the school to find the head master starts on the dot of 8am; for once it takes them a long time to track him down in the school basement. For us, another queue starts about 10am for the Christmas communion service. How different the atmosphere - much more relaxed with the chapel full of friends and families, and a chance for us all to sing out, too. Home for hunch - ham and baked potatoes - and then at last we get to those important things like presents. Phone calls to the result the family, all enjoying more normal Christmases, help to overcome the sense of anti-climax and sheer exhaustion that sets in.

But tomorrow is another day, and even though we know it's really Boxing Day, we celebrate Christmas with turkey, stuffing, funny hats and mince pies and all, with another house full of people. It's a little strange doing it a day late, and carois are absolutely banned until

John, Ben and Geoffrey finished their time as choristers at King's in July of this year. They won muster scholarships to Uppingham, Har-

#### VIEW FROM HERE

ONE OF the most fascinating things about the education quality industry is how it transforms the language. The other day I read through yet another 40-page document on some institution's quality assurance procedures, which felt like 440 pages, and kept myself awake by counting repetitions. I became almost excited when I counted 66 citings of "robust" or "robustness", and another 50-odd uses of "vigorous".

I never remember "robust" being used in this way until recently. Suddenly, everyone is claiming that their monitoring procedures are robust, that their teaching is robustly maintained and their libraries are vigorously and robustly serviced. My theory is that this particular linguistic change is linked to the discovery of Viagra. The sort of people who dreamed up all this documentation must have a thing about being robust and vigorous, and inspired by Viagra they're inserting robustness and vigour into everything. It's positively alarming.

What is equally alarming is the number of people apparently having visions. I always thought a vision was the sort of thing that happened to St Bernadette, or the children who saw Our Lady of Fatima, but apparently that's way out of date. These days you have a vision for everything - for your subject, your institution, your committee structures, your teaching - and no sooner has the vision materialised than you are supposed to set about putting it into action. Or rather, to quote the phrase from a weighty document that cost somewhere in the region of £500,000 to produce, you are supposed to "seek ways of ensuring the implementation of the envisioning process"

It's too bad if you don't like the idea of all these robust and vigorous envisioning processes, because they are bound to impact on you sooner or later. Yes, that's another neologism in Qualityspeak. Things don't have an impact or produce an impact, they just go right ahead and

impact on you, unmediated. I bet there are people even



**SUSAN** BASSNETT In the world of Qualityspeak, every

thing has to be couched in language that conceals any hint of

brutal reality

now working on PhD theses on the emergence of Qualityspeak as a new language altogether, related to English but definitely evolving its own vocabulary and syntax. By the time you have undergone an audit or two, a few more teaching assessments and the odd research assessment exercise, you can bet that the Quality Assurance

Agency will have invented a few more hurdles to keep us out of research labs and libraries, and

a few dozen more neologisms. You really have to work hard to stay abreast of the language development. Part of the problem is that everything has to be couched in language that conceals any hint of brutal reality. We are all using enabling language these days, I was recently told, when I protested that the term "refocusing" was nothing more than a euphemism for cuts and restructuring. "Focus" sounds so much warmer and, well, fuzzier, that we can be lulled into a false sense of security.

Everything in education today is presented in enabling language. Besides all the vigour and robustness, all the "mutuality", "reaffirmation", 'visionary unity", and even, God help us, "joined-up organisation", we have a sea of terminology about how everything is perpetually improving. If you believe that, you'll believe the advertisement for instant coffee that sells itself proudly with the phrase "Just

when you thought it couldn't get

any better". So, what next? Will the dumbed-down, soft-bellied, Viagra-boosted quality industry invest a large sum of taxpayers' money to train interpreters in English and Qualityspeak? Will a full-scale dictionary be commissioned soon? And will every institution soon be required to produce vision statements and envisioning process documents, together with robust assurances that the right kind of energy is flowing round, so as to enhance the learning experience? Will we soon see an Envisioning League Table? Particularly joined-up institutions would score an extra point or two on the envisioning scale, and assessors would be trained to rate potency, vigour and quality of vision.

Absurd? Not when you think of what we have now by way of improvements. When the vision league happens, remember: you read it here first.

The writer is pro-vicechancellor of the University of Warwick



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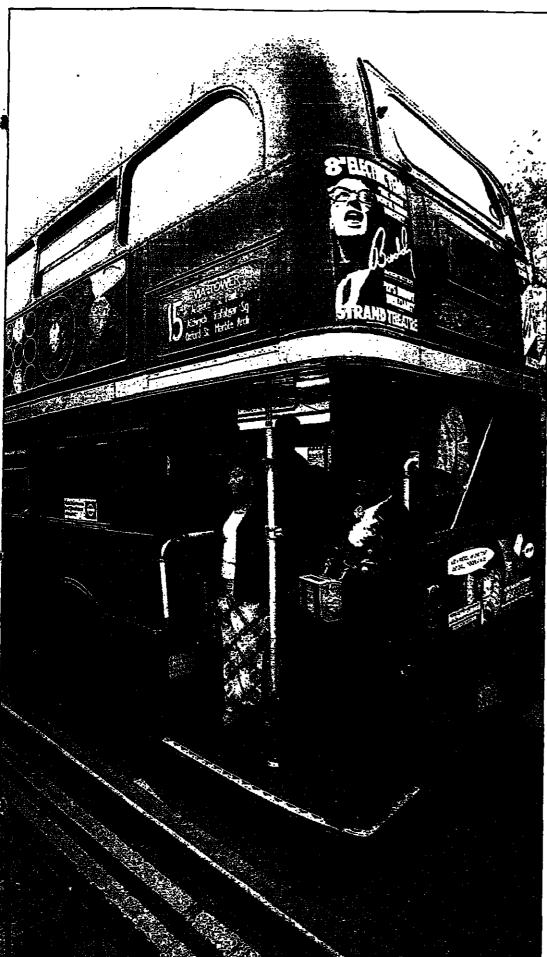
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According to London Transport, all students are aged between 18 and 24

#### WORD OF MOUTH JOHN IZBICKI

# I'm dreaming of a fright Christmas

Free speech comes dear An extraordinary 180-word letter has appeared in the pre-Christmas pay packets of all staff at Middlesex University. Penned by Michael Driscoll, its vice-chancellor, and signed with simple bonhomie Michael", it is anything but bon.

In fact, it sounds remarkably like an extract from Brave New World. "Dear Colleague" it kicks off, then launches an attack on all who fail to toe the university line. "Policies and procedures have been developed to prevent legal challenge. external scrutiny, or other damage being done to the University," Professor Driscoll says, and instructs "all colleagues to abide by these procedures." Failure to do so could "lead to disciplinary action being taken against you". If a breach is serious enough "this could be considered as gross misconduct".

What on earth could have triggered such a stiff ultimatum? And since when have universities - particularly former polys - shied away from "external scrutiny"? Did not the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA) provide just such regular scrutiny of degree courses and administration? Could the outburst have anything to do with the recent resignation from the board of governors of Jonathan Ree, after 25 years on the staff, and more than two years as staff governor? Rée had written an article attacking the "culture of fearful conformity" on campus, for the university's once excellent newsletter, North Circular. It was heavily censored by senior management; North Circular was barred from out-of-campus distribution, and its editor, Suzi Clark, was suspended.

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (Natfhe), the university's main academic union, has published an emergency bulletin, headlined "How Dare He?", and has demanded an explanation and an apology "for [Prof Driscoll's] threatening letter". And this is supposed to be the season of goodwill!

Meaning of mature London Transport has produced a travel card that gives students a discount. Nothing wrong with that. Except that, by LT's definition, "student" means someone aged between 18 and 24. The fact that there are now more mature students at universities and colleges than sixthform leavers has escaped LT's muffled brain cells.

Paul Taggart, mature student officer at the University of East London, was justifiably peeved at this clear piece of ageist discrimination. The university's communications chief, Christine Hodgson, approached London Transport's press office for an explanation. "It's actually costing us money to do this," she was told in no uncertain terms. The scheme, launched in September after being piloted at Queen Mary and Westfield College, was designed for students with the "most serious financial pressures", and came with the following piece of wisdom: "If you catch 'em young, they'll stay public transport users all their lives."

LT could do with a kick up its proverbial tunnel. But it is not alone in producing this kind of claptrap. Only the other day, Baroness (Tessa) Blackstone, Higher Education Minister, told her fellow peers that mature students had no age limit - then added that they could even qualify for a grant, if they were under 55. This would disqualify 69year-old Bob Boughey, who studies fine art at Staffordshire University, and Frank Mellor, who has just accepted a place for a BSc Honours degree in complementary medicine at Salford University. He is a dazzling 78, and will be 81 when he graduates in 2001.

Lifelong boost Thank goodness Brussels seems to be more on the ball when it comes to lifelong learning than our own lot who put only a little lolly where their big mouths are. The European Social Fund has coughed up more than £550,000 to allow the University of Derby's Centre for Access and Lifelong Learning to meet the training needs of some 60 small- and medium-sized businesses over the next two years. The cash has been given as part of a University for Industry initiative and will allow the university and the Derbyshire Regional Network, comprising a number of colleges in the region, to

develop curriculum materials to promote lifelong learning. The UfI is already making its presence felt. Its chief executive, Dr Anne Wright, former vice-chancellor of Sunderland University, delivered what may well have been her maiden speech about this virtual reality university at a recent dinner to commemorate the 175th anniversary of Birkbeck College, University of London. She was closely watched by two other women in the room: one was the beautiful Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Birkbeck's first woman professor (of botany). who became Commandant of the women's section of the Air Force in World War One. Competing for attention was another portrait - of

Birkbeck's former Master, Baroness

nobody's mistress")

Blackstone. **RE-aligned** 

("I'm

You wouldn't think that any headteacher of a failed school - failed, that is, by Ofsted's standards, so I would be suspicious of that for a start - would be chosen by that very same body to inspect another school Or would you?

Take Margaret Ryan, head of St George's Roman Catholic School in Maida Vale, London, for instance. St George's, you will recall, is the school whose previous head, Philip Lawrence, met a violent and tragic death a few years ago at the hands of a young thug. It recently failed its

Ofsted inspection and has been placed on special measures (which means it has been instructed to pull its academic socks up). Despite this, Ms Ryan was invited to join an Ofsted team to inspect the religious education (RE) provision at another Catholic school towards the end of next month. She accepted, but has now done a U-turn and withdrawn. Reason? In the very week she was meant to conduct her RE investigation, her own school is having its first follow-up visit by Her Majesty's Inspectorate.

Out of focus

What on earth has gone wrong at University College London? It used to understand the meaning of good public relations; but no longer, judging from a letter just received by The Independent.

In response to a request for a picture to illustrate an article likely to enhance UCL's image, two colour slides arrived - one a general view of the college, the other of dear old Jeremy Bentham, whose mummified presence still makes itself felt when students drag him out once a year A letter from UCL's "Development" office stated bluntly: "The slides are loaned to you for a period of one week from the postmarked date and must be returned within this time. Failure to return the slides within the time specified may result in your organisation being invoiced up to a maximum of £250 plus VAT for each day the slides is [sic] overdue. This is a measure we have to, reluctantly, [sic, or perhaps even sick] enforce recently [sic] after many of our photographs were lost or mislaid." Tut-tut.

And finally

Word of Mouth is taking a break until 4 January, when it returns, ready for the pre-Millennium year. I send seasonal greetings to all faithful readers in universities, colleges and schools - as well as the many outside the education sector.

#### A-Z OF COLLEGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

## Central School of Speech and Drama

History: Founded for training by the formidable Miss Elsie Fogerty. Moved from its original Albert Hall base to the Embassy Theatre, Swiss Cottage, in 1957, with the help of a distinguished alumnus, Laurence Olivier, who led a fundraising appeal.

Address: Main site is at Swiss Cottage, a huge roundabout on the edge of Hampstead. Second smaller site in St Pancras Way, Camden, close to Mornington Crescent Underground station. Ambience: Hotchpotch of architectural styles centred ound Edwardian theatre. th sites conveniently located beside Tube stations. And Swiss Cottage is close to Primrose Hill, Regent's Park and Hampstead. Great sports centre library and Hampstead Theatre on the doorstep. College is small, which creates friendly, sociable atmosphere. Vital statistics: Has 720 students, one-quarter on postgraduate programmes. Offers foundation course in art and de-

sign, acting BA, postgraduate diploma in voice studies, and teacher training. Degrees are validated by the Open University, but the college plans to apply to the Privy Council for the power to award its own. Added value: Claims to offer the widest range of courses in theatre arts. Particularly noted for introducing new forms and practices alongside classical theatre. A few years ago, began the country's first BA in puppetry. Circus degree is now in

the pipeline. Easy to get into? Not for acting. The BA acting course auditions 1.000 students for 30 places. It turned down Sir John Gielgud and Antony Sher (oops!). Applicants for design courses need strong portfolios. For teacher training, students need GCSEs grade C or above in English, maths and science, and a minimum of two A-levels

at C or above. Glittering alumni: Lord Olivier, Peggy Ashcroft, Judi Dench, Julie Christie, Jennifer



Macintosh, Harold Pinter, Vanessa Redgrave, Tony Robinson, Jennifer Saunders, Warner,

Transport links: Main campus is on the Jubilee Tube line and will be within easy reach of the Millennium Dome - or maybe not. Good for buses, too. Parking is a nightmare. Who's the boss? Professor

HMI, who has put a son and daughter on the stage, despite Mrs Worthington's advice. Teaching: Rated 23 out of 24 for drama, dance and cinematics Ehle, Dawn French, Cameron by the Quality Assurance

Agency. The latest Ofsted in-spection judged teacher training to be good or very good in

all areas. Research: Awarded a 3b in art and design (top grade is 5) in exercise. Performed better than 27 new universities in the RAE league table.

Financial health: In the black. Is hoping for a windfall when the Higher Education Funding Council publishes its review of specialist institutions in the new year.

Night-life: Student bar runs more than one event a week (eg disco/quiz night). Plus two or three parties a term. Cheap to live in? No. Local

student rents range from £70 to £90 a week. It gets cheaper the further out you go. No halls of residence, though you get the Robert Fowler, former staff help of a part-time summer accommodation assistant. Buzz-question: Is that my stage left or your stage left?
On 7 January: Cheltenham

and Gloucester **LUCY HODGES** 

# skills employability



Higher Education Conferences for Graduates

Monday 18 January 1999 • Woburn House Meeting & Conference Centre, London WC1

Skills & Employability is a key strand of the DfEE's agenda to promote quality and employability. This conference will follow the forthcoming launch of a joint report by CVCP and the DfEE entitled Skills Development in Higher Education. The report will provide the impetus to discuss the contribution of the skills and employability agenda to the development of a competitive economy and the implications for education providers.

# Rt Hon Andrew Smith MP

Director, The Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE)

Chief Executive, The Higher Education Careers Service Unit (CSU)

Group Personnel and Training Director, Granada Foods Ltd

Professor Leslie Wagner, Vice-Chancellor, Leeds Metropolitan University Trevor Fellowes

Higher Education: Quality & Employability Division, DfEE Diana Warwick, Chief Executive, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals

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# **ODDLY ENOUGH**

ican company saw its plans backfire when it made pencils Mosier earned his class a letbearing an anti-drug slogan, "Too Cool to Do Drugs". Tenyear-old Kodi Mosier at Ticonderoga Elementary School in New York noticed that when the pencils are sharpened, the Dumbing down: Satellite message turns into "Cool to Do Drugs", then simply "Do Drugs". As a result of the discovery, the company, The Bureau For At-Risk Youth of using it to watch soap operas in Plainview, Long Island, recalled the pencils. "We're a little embarrassed that we didn't notice that sooner," said spokeswoman Darlene Clair. A new batch of pencils will have the

Pencil pushers: An Amer- sharpened, they read "Too Cool on condition of his anonymity. money which one student To Do" and finally "Too Cool". In mitigation, however, other ter of apology from the company and a box of T-shirts. I locked up because they fear guess they didn't sharpen their that it might be stolen. The conpencils," he said.

equipment meant for instructional use may be confiscated from some of Thailand's class. A survey of more than 12,000 schools nationwide found that 913 were using the equipment inappropriately, with many classes watching soaps and other entertainment pro-

ment at all, but keeping it tract to sell satellite equipment to Thai schools has been criticised for its cost - and the fact that the supplying company was owned by Thaksin Shinawatra, who at the time was

Gym strip: A gym teacher and vice-principal have been suspended while police investigate the strip searching of 19 high-school students in Kingsville, Ontario. The two The Bage written in the opposite grammes, said an Education staff members conducted the

deputy prime minister.

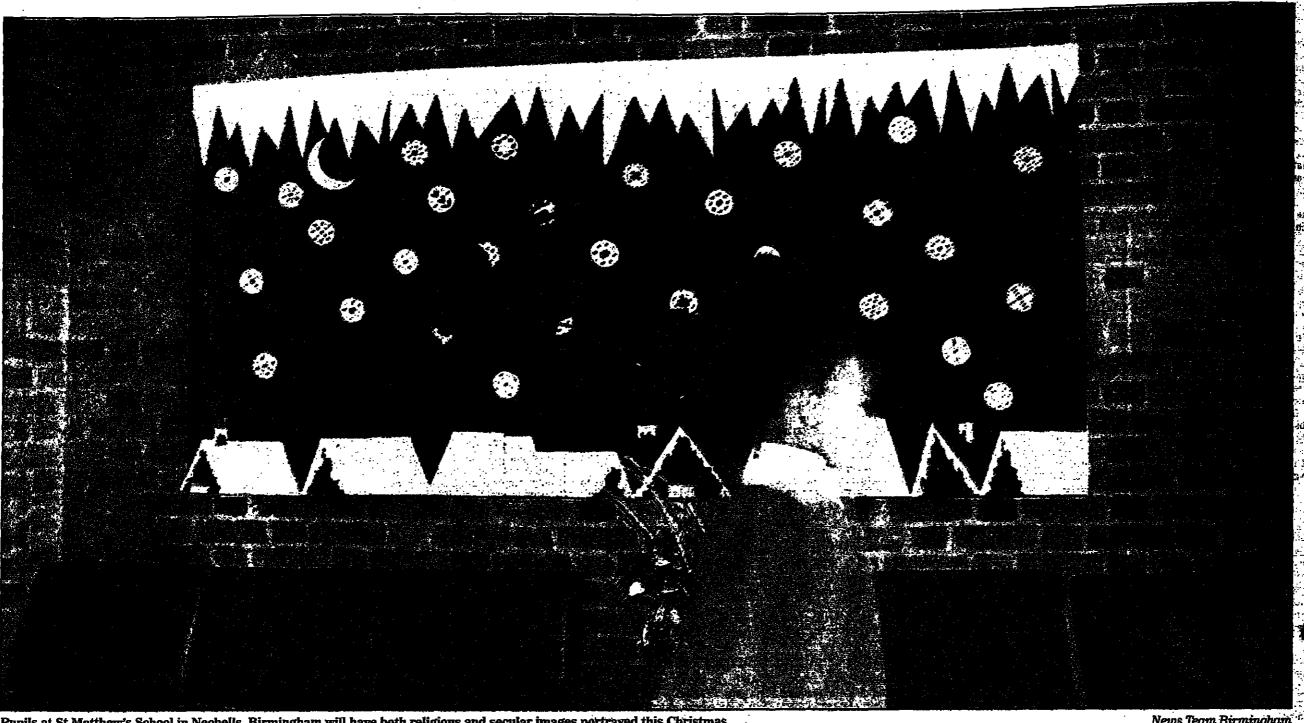
principal who allowed the strip search, reportedly admits he made a mistake, and is devastated by the incident. Dan Bondy, the gym teacher, is refusing to comment until he gets a lawyer. The controversy began when the 14-year-olds were taken one at a time into an office, ordered to remove their pants, then told to bend over as Bondy and MacDonald searched for missing money. Both have been suspended with pay. The school board has ruled that, from now on, teachers will only be able to ask students to turn their pockets inside out or direction, so when they are Ministry official, speaking only search in a futile effort to find take off their shoes and socks.

claimed had been stolen from

him. John MacDonald, the vice-

# We wish you a merry Winterval

How should schools approach Christmas in a multi-cultural society of many different faiths? By Diana Hinds



Pupils at St Matthew's School in Nechells, Birmingham will have both religious and secular images portrayed this Christmas

News Team Birmingham

proach the Christtricky in these days of political correctess, in a society where only a small minority are regular Christian churchgoers and where schools teach many children

When Birmingham City Council, in an effort to attract more shoppers over a longer period, christened its programme of festive events over Christmas and New Year "Winterval", the move was pounced on by tabloid newspapers and snorted at by the Bishop of Birmingham.

'I laughed out loud when our city council came out with 'Winterval' as a way of not talking about Christmas," said the Right Rev Mark Santer, in a recent Christmas message to his flock. "No doubt it was a well-meaning attempt not to offend, not to exclude, not really to say anything at all... Now, it seems, the secular world, which professes respect for all, is deeply embarrassed by faith."

Schools, too, can be "embarrassed" by faith. Lat Blaylock, at the Professional Council for Religious

number that tackie Christmas with- seven-to-eleven-year-olds, Christ- Birmingham (see left), this is the out any reference to Christianity, But ianity and two others. equally unsatisfactory, he says, are those schools that approach Christmas with the assumption that \_\_to world faiths than there was in the \_\_experience\_the Christian Christ everyone celebrates it as a Christ-

Best practice, he explains, is for a school to reflect on the beliefs and will look not just at the trappings of as a secular concert; and the crib estivals of a faith, in a way that does a particular festival, but at the ideas not require children to participate. and allows them to bring to it their own experiences and insights.

see a little more than children just 'Nativity plays should show the reality, not a

sentimental stable with no smell and no cold'

of "agreed syllabuses" for religious education, drawn up by each local authority has helped to give teachers more confidence in the subject, says Ian Wragg, chairman of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. Typically, these syllabuses introduce different faiths more gradually and in more depth than in the past, so that five-toseven-year-olds may study Christ-

The introduction, four years ago, dressing up in tea-towels as shepherds and wise men.

Eighties and early Nineties," adds

Lat Blaylock

"The incarnation is about earthiness, about God getting involved in the messiness of the world... I'm not against Nativity plays, but there is a way in which they can be approached which will show the reality, the agony, the poverty – and not just a sentimental stable which has no smell and no cold."

ianity and one other faith, and land primary school, in inner-city for looking at these things."

"There is less of the round-the- -60 per cent Afro-Caribbean and world, let's have a party' attitude .. mixed race, 20 per cent Asian - will mas story in full. There will be car-

ols and a Nativity play in church, for A considered approach to religion all children and their parents, as well and beliefs that lie behind it. So, at balanced by a secular Santa-based Christmas, Ian Wragg would like to display in another.

"We will be putting the emphasis on giving to others at Christmas, rather than receiving, and because this is a deprived community, we talk about giving of ourselves," says Maggie Scott, St Matthew's head teacher - a Christian, "but not a Bible-thumping one".

The school must share the Christmas story with its pupils, she believes; in many cases, if the school doesn't, no one else will: "It is part of this country's heritage and culture, and we would be depriving children if we didn't tell them about it. Also, we must develop the whole child: their spirituality, care and consideration for others. Christian principles are good principles for bringing up a child, regardless of At St Matthew's Church of Eng-faith, and Christmas is a good time

#### What Christmas Means to Me

WE ASKED children at St Matthew's, Nechells, Birmingham, what was important to them about

Coral, 5: "We're going to my nan's for dinner. We'll have a huge turkey and potatoes. I like Christmas because Santa brings us presents. I haven't got a chimney, but I think he'll sneak in through my letterbox."

David. 6: "I'm going to India. I'm going to a temple to celebrate and I've got to go there to pray for my grandad because he died. When I come back from India I've got to go to church, and sing hosannas."

Dinah. 10: "I think Christmas is about being together with your family and loving each other. We'll have all sorts of food: mutton, rice, chicken, peas, salad. We'll put music on really, really loudly and start dancing. Sometimes we have music on other days, but it's more special

at Christmas time because you have got to enjoy yourself." Jason, 10: "Christmas is about turning over a new leaf. It's a special time because you

get to know your family more. We go to my nan's on Christmas Eve, and in the morning we go to Learnington to see my auntie. I like people's faces when you give them something. I don't like the story about Jesus as much as I like Noah's Ark. Noah's Ark shows what happens if you don't

believe other people - and also I like the animals. In the Christmas story I don't really like people dying - all the baby boys - because I feel sad a lot." Kamran, 8: "Sometimes we

have presents and Christmas cards, but Christmas is like a normal day for us. My brother and sister have to wake up extra early, around 5.30am, because they fast. In the afternoon we put the television on and wait until the fasting is over, at

around 430pm. After that we all have food and drink. A hit later. after Christmas is Eid That's when we have our presents."

Philip, 10: "My mum does the Nativity play at our church with the vicar's wife, and this year I'm an alien. The alien comes down to earth, and it's asking questions like, what's Christmas? I like the Christmas story, especially when it's changed and it's got aliens in it as well. I've got to speak for myself, and I'm going to be all green with little antennae sticking out at the top. It makes the story more interesting."

David, 10: "We don't have Christmas because we are Chinese. We have the Chinese New Year in January, and then we visit our friends and cousins. and people give these little red bags with money in. On Christmas I sometimes think of my friends enjoying themselves. But I don't really feel left out."

# Colour and sound to seduce the most reluctant young souls

#### HOME HELP

8. SOFTWARE TO HELP WITH HOMEWORK

WITH CORE subjects exerting a big squeeze on the curriculum, art and music are something of an endangered species on the average school timetable. While there is no substitute for splashing about real paint or scratching out "Little Brown Jug" on a violin, computers can pick up some of the creative slack by offering different ways for children to express themselves - and hone their IT skills at the same time.

The beauty of art software, for instance, is that it allows small children to make pictures before they can even grasp a pencil. Take Pip's Picture Maker (Ten out of Ten. 3-12 years, £4.99), a daft but satisfying mix of sticker art and paint package, with various themed backgrounds and hundreds of apt or wholly inappropriate "stickers" with which to populate and embellish them. Zach, aged three, used the Wild West disc. creating his own idiosyncratic version of life on the Western frontier. complete with campfire, cowboy "I know everything about it," says and kangaroo. Also available in Flan, aged six, its biggest fan. "It's

farm, park, seaside, pirate, haunted house and space versions.

focused, Print Artist Junior (Sierra, 5-12 years, £14.99) has a multitude of different art projects, including paper aeroplanes, banners, cards. mobiles, masks, and puppets; modify the ready-made templates, or make your own. It's easy to use and great for those kids stuck on what to make Granny for Christmas, but as with most art packages, you really do need a colour printer to get your results down on paper.

Of the paint programs on the market, Art Attack (Europress, 4-14 years, £29.99) has more appeal than many. Based on the popular children's programme, it has plenty of whizzy features to let kids make pictures and cartoons. Much beloved by just as if they were real paint. all my boys, who recite "Hello and welcome to Art Attack" in a perfect imitation of the presenter Neil Buchanan's characteristic drawl

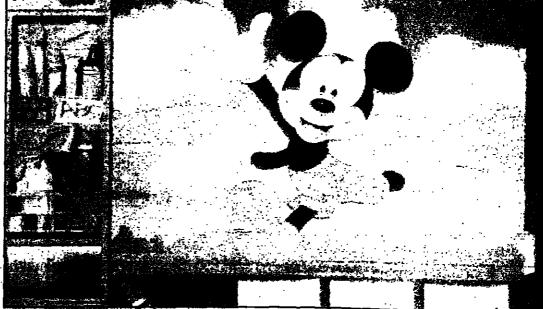
much better than paper because you have all the colours in the world, like turquoise and purple and red."

But it seems that Disney can still work greater magic, because we all fell instantly under the spell of Magic Artist (all ages, £29.99). It is packed with exceptionally diverting features; you can produce professional-looking pictures in seconds or just doodle away to your heart's content, accompanied by a host of sploshing and splurging sound effects. Choose from cartoonstyle backgrounds and Disney characters, or go free style with features that let you spray the screen with ladybirds or splatter stars across a starry night. The family favourite was the incredibly realistic smudge feature, which lets you blend colours

Top marks for entertainment, however, must go Orly's Draw-a-Story (Broderbund, 5-10 years, £29.99), a paint program with a dif-ference. It is instructed by an irrepressible Jamaican girl, Orly, and her Caribbean amphibian frog friend, Lancelot ("gribbit, man"), and the characters you draw come to life as the various stories unfold. It's guaranteed to rouse even the most reluctant artist

Music is perhaps not so digitally cessible, but I was most taken with Musicolour (Europress, 5 years and over, £29.99), which is remarkable, since I am about as musical as Des O'Connor. The software bridges that gap between serious and fun, making the world of tetrachords and accidentals comprehensible to the most melodically challenged. I particularly enjoyed the free composition option, which is cleverly devised so that whatever nearrandom sequence of notes I chose sounded wonderful.

Orchestra (Attica, 14 years and over, £39.99) works on a grander scale, guiding you through the players, instruments and conventions of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle at



Disney's Magic Artist allows children to draw pictures or simply doodle

orchestra, find out about different instruments, and even watch a rendition of Benjamin Britten's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. There's rather too much of Rattle in various dramatic conductor poses, but along with the audio CD of the Britten piece, it's an entertaining and useful introduction to this cornerstone of classical music.

At the opposite end of the scale, Lemon Dog in Soundlands Œuropress, 5-7 years, £19.99) offers a lightthe helm. You can build your own hearted musical game to help years, £14.99). You can fulfil every

Lemon Dog find and release the members of his band. Appealing, with wonderful graphics, but little in terms of serious musical instruction. it will keep the kids happy over the holidays - but don't expect them to turn into musical prodigies. "It's really cool cracking the musical codes," said eight-year-old Joshua. after two hours of foot-tapping play.

The winner in the light entertainment category, however, is Wannabe a Pop Star (Attica, 8-16

teenage fantasy by hiring a band, mixing and recording your song, and then playing a live concert to a hysterically appreciative audience in a bid to get to number one. This is a wonderfully tongue-in-cheek ego trip with some realistic features; you can even print out your song. I probably shouldn't admit that I haven't enjoyed myself so much in a long time, although, sadly, my song wasn't a smash hit. Don't give up the

day job, was the peremptory verdict.

INSTITUCES: Emperator of Males

The Univ

#### **YOUR VIEWS**

Learning vs teaching HOW RIGHT Patricia Broadfoot ("A nice little earner", DUCATION, 3 December) is to Tighlight the need to focus on what has been learned instead of

what has been taught. EDUCATION, 10 December.) Positive learning culture will only be achieved when students are fully involved in their learning. Assessment is not what you do to someone. It needs to be what their course actually participatory and understood by involves? Will the brightest teacher and student. The potential as a motivating

factor, particularly for under-Warwick or Durham? achieving boys, is huge Investment in quality research and development projects looking at learning, particularly in relation to the Government's stated commitment to lifelong learning and a learning culture

for all, is long overdue. If we were to ask students in our schools and colleges, "What did you learn today?" I have a feeling that we would be surprised and disappointed by the vast majority of their responses. JUDITH MULLEN President Secondary Heads Association

Scrap the RAE now DAVID BLUNKETT is reported as having said that his son's university teachers were not nterested in teaching and more

interested in their own research. Mr Blunkett could stop the absurd, unseemly and futile paper chase that is the Research Assessment Exercise right now, at a stroke, and save at least £2m to go to much needed additional teaching resources.

Indeed, he was also reported as saying - before the general election - that he would do something about it. Instead he has done nothing, except, possibly, postpone it, thus adding to its theatricality. Perhaps he is preoccupied by his latest panacea - fast-track promotion for excellent young graduate chers; yet another insult to the old hackers" who will presumably be expected to mentor these stars of the future. DR JACK EATON School of Management & University of Wales

More interviews, please AS AN Oxford graduate and excomprehensive pupil, may I ask what the problem is with Oxford interviews? ("Oxbridge entrants face real university challenge",

Would it not be a good idea for all universities to interview their potential candidates to make sure that they have a good grasp of candidates not make just as good a career from a course at York.

I do agree that it would be far fairer for all concerned to have university applications after Alevel results come out. However, if Ms Clanchy thinks Oxbridge applications are like a lottery, she might consider the various hoops, stages and processes graduate recruiters subject finalists to. HELEN SMITH Winchester

Spell it out to children THE PICTURE on the front page of today's EDUCATION section (10 December) gives the real clue as to what we can learn from the Germans. The Germans do not only match the abilities of teachers to the requirements of their pupils and reward them well. For the second time this century, they have just made another serious effort to ensure that all pupils have a reasonable chance of profiting from the time they spend at school. They have made German spelling a little more regular yet again, although it was already vastly more predictable than English before this last reform.

We waste the time and energy of young children, and dissipate their enthusiasm for learning, by forcing them to memorise contradictory and utterly pointless spelling conundrums like "to-go-do-through-who-twotoo", "light-height-weight" and "the-me-see-sea-key-quay-deletechief-seize". as well as "shoddybody", "muddy-study", "accountacross" and "always-all right".

If we were seriously concerned about improving educational chances for all, we would put an end to such nonsensical intellectual hoops, which vast numbers of children simply cannot negotiate.

The reason why a quarter of English-speaking adults worldwide cannot read simple instructions, and nearly half are very uncertain writers is perfectly clear. It would be hard to invent a more difficult system than English spelling, even if one really tried. It has repeatedly driven teachers into vain searches for better teaching methods, and sometimes the

ones indeed. Millions and millions of pounds have had to be spent on various remedial measures over the years to ensure that not just the most bright leave school able to read

adoption of some very peculiar

and to write. Once in a while, a more serious attempt to make all children more literate comes along, like under this government now. The inevitable outcome of such campaigns in the past has always been the squeezing of other subjects, especially the arts, but also science and maths.

I have no hesitation about predicting that we will once again wake up to this fact before long. Primary school teachers, who are always hard-pressed for time in our schools, can only give more attention to one area of the curriculum by taking it from something else.

So why not grab the bull by the borns once and for all and stop it rampaging through our children's learning and doing such harm? Why do we keep obeying a system that one man (Dr Johnson) decreed almost 250 years ago? Why do we not simplify English spelling, and thereby make school time profitable for many more children than it is now? MASHA BELL Sandford

Wareham

Sedation for students I READ with interest the piece written by Professor Ted Wragg (View From Here, EDUCATION, 10 December), in particular, his worries about the sedation of his students. I couldn't agree more, but from what I can see, it is those within education itself that have created this situation, and constantly perpetuate it. I am an adult student,

currently taking a master's

degree in education. Not having had the opportunity to continue my education in my younger years, I sought to improve myself, and gain some qualifications in

middle age. However, as I am progressing further up the long ladder of academia. I am becoming increasingly disenchanted with the entire business.

Being an adult, I entered my studies with some views, opinions and an experience of life. What I was presented with during my degree course was an orthodoxy that I neither agreed with, nor believed in, and yet, if I wanted to achieve my qualification, I had to toe the line". I was fed psychobabble, counselling claptrap, and was expected to digest theories that were neither proven, nor

even agreed upon by their peers. On the one occasion that I drifted "off message", I was swiftly punished for my audacity. I was marked down, which could have cost me my honours degree.

Having paid a great deal of my own money for the privilege, I learned never to do that again. If I, as a fully paying adult, can't make that kind of statement, then what chance does a young. inexperienced student have?

With financial and social essures to achieve, I am afraid that Professor Wragg is going to see a lot more sedated students. This is not the Sixties, when higher education was virtually free, and jobs were relatively easy to obtain.

If there are any possibilities for change (and personally, I can't see that happening) then it has to come from those who are within

Education itself has been engulfed by psychological mumbo jumbo. Get rid of some of that baggage, there's a start. Or is that too revolutionary for you lot! DISENCHANTED Milton Keynes

Please send your letters to Wendy Berliner, Editor, EDUCATION, The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL. Include a day time telephone number. Fox letters to EDUCATION on 0171 293 2451; e-mail:educ@independent.co.uk Letters may be edited for length

PASSED/FAILED SIR HARRY KROTO FRS

Nobel prizewinner Sir Harry Kroto, 60, is a specialist in spectroscopy and nanotechnology, and a co-founder of the Vega Science Trust (www.vega.org.uk) which makes

scientific programmes for the BBC2 Learning Zone

New kid on the block My first school was Merehall Street primary school in Bolton. I was the kid with the funny name, Krotoschiner, which had its origins in Silesia where my father's family originated. He changed it to Kroto in 1955, so it is now thought by some to be Japanese. At school, my favourite subject was art. Although science has always been the way I have earned my living. if there had ever seemed to be a possibility of earning my living by art, I would certainly have considered that.

Bolton Wanderer: I had to get a scholarship as my parents were pretty poor. There was an exam to Bolton Junior and to Bolton School itself. This has ended up as an independent school and it bothers me that, were I today in the same financial situation as my parents had been, I would not be able to send my children to this exceptional school. Though I did not like exams or homework any more than other kids, I spent as much time at school as I could. My father made me finish all my homework and I had to stay up until it was not only complete, but passed his inspection - midnight if necessary.

Quantum Meccano: At home, I had a Meccano set with which I played endlessly. New toys (mainly Lego) have eclipsed Meccano and this has been a major disaster as far as the education of kids is concerned. Meccano is a real engineering kit and teaches a particular skill: the sensitive touch needed to thread a nut on to a bolt and tighten them with a screwdriver and spanner so that they stay locked - but not so tightly that the thread is stripped.

Not very grand old Duke of York: I played some sport, in particular tennis. In the sixth form, I

acted in the school play, Henry V, as the Duke of York, a one-line part. In his biography, Ian McKellen, who was in the same year, mentions the production as a crucial play in his career. I had no aspirations to go on stage; I had no am-

Big bangs theory: I was good at science and started to develop an unhealthy interest in chemistry and was fascinated by the smells and bangs that are now banned. I was encouraged by the sixth-form chemistry teacher, Dr Harry Heaney (now a professor at Loughborough University), to go to Sheffield University because he reckoned it had at the time the best chemistry department.

bitions - certainly no ambitions to

be a scientist - other than just

going to university.

Cover story: At Sheffield, I played for the university tennis team and we got to the Universities Athletics Union finals twice. Without me, they would probably have

been champions. I ended up a president of the university's athletics council and spent some two to three hours each day attending to administration in the union. That year's involvement in embryonic politics was enough to last a lifetime. In between the tennis, some snooker and football, designing covers for the termly magazine *Arrows*, painting murals as backdrops for balls and playing the guitar at local folk clubs, I managed to do enough chemistry to get a first-class BSc and a PhD.

Sound as Beil: I also got married. Marg and I decided we wanted to live abroad for a while and I had an attractive offer of a postdoctoral position at the National Research Council in Ottawa. After two years, I got a post-doctoral year in the US, at Bell Labs, New Jersey. When I came back to a post-doctoral position at Sussex. my annual salary dropped from \$15,000 to £1,400 - ouch!

INTERVIEW BY JONATHAN SALE

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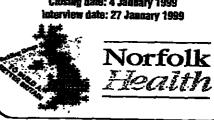
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For further information and an application please write to Personnel Officer, NHS Executive South and West, Westward House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford, Bristol B\$34 6RJ or telephone (0117) 984 1877 (answerphone). Please quote reference R&D/07. Closing date for applications is 11th January 1999.

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# 'After I left the Sorbonne...

A quarter of all CVs, it is said, contain outright lies. So companies have begun to check them more carefully. By Kate Hilpern

here is a much-used piece of jargon currently floating around the world of jobsearching: CV abuse. The extent of the problem is revealed by the latest report from the Association of Search and Selection Consultants, which has found that a quarter of all CVs contain lies. What's more, the Institute of Personnel and Development (IPD) claims that it's a practice that is increasing fast.

"Gone are the days when you just filled in a simple job application," says Angela Edward, policy adviser for IPD. In the late Nineties, there's as much emphasis on sending out the perfect CV as there is on taking exams for a degree. No wonder job candidates feel pressurised into telling a

Altering the periods spent at individual jobs in order to cover up periods of unemployment - or even a whole gap year is the top preference, she claims, though pretending you've got a few extra GCSEs falls close behind. Lord Archer is only one of many who have been accused of inflating their qualifications.

"If people are dismissed from a job, they'll often make it look like a planned career move," adds Ms Edward. "And if they can't seem to hold any position down for more than a couple of months, they'll simply group the jobs under a generic title so they don't come across as too flighty." Since a recent study among graduates revealed that state school pupils are losing out to independent school pupils when they reach the employment market, graduates have even begun to lie about that. Cheltenham Ladies College, after all, sounds better to many employers than your local comp.

So how scary are the repercussions? Not very, it would appear at first glance. Ac-moving on," claims Debra Allcock, head of doesn't mean I can't put it down on my CV, your current typing and shorthand speeds. and BSc degrees for £318 each (with honcording to a report by the law firm Harper Macleod, a third of companies do not check whether job candidates are lying about their qualifications. And because of data protection laws, employers are not "And frankly, I don't blame them in such a ven allowed to seek confirmation of qualifications or attendance through the universities and schools themselves.

"Even in the instance that you are caught out, there are unlikely to be legal consequences - so the worst that will gen-



In "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty', the eponymous hero created a whole new personal history for himself. Don't be tempted to do the same...

"Graduates, in particular, are not averse to overstating the skills and experience they gain from work placements," she says. competitive market." Indeed, Allcock's leading message on this issue is that graduates should not become so scared by all the hype about CV abuse that they wind up underselling themselves.

For instance, she recently took a one-

campaigning at the Industrial Society. though," she says. "After all, I learnt a lot about law, economics and accounts during that year - and why shouldn't I let potential employers know that?" But, she warns, beware of vague phrases such as "involved in", "knowledge of", and "exposure to". Rather, use descriptions such as "responsible for", "delivery of" and "achievements", which imply higher status.

Some employers are even willing to recognise that it's easy to forget the exact

same job for a long time - and have had no need to keep a CV on file - you can forget such details," explains Alison Migwell, a careers adviser.

But some people take it too far. In July this year Sion Jenkins, the deputy headteacher convicted of murdering his fosterdaughter, was found to have lied about his

"Particularly when you've been in the ours as an optional extra at £54) from a nonexistent "University of Yorkshire". Even people dealing with life and death situations are not immune. A GP, Dr Hani Ghazi, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct after falsely claiming to have an MA from Oxford University.

And this, says Migwell, is why graduates should be as cautious of overselling as they qualifications in order to reach his position are of underselling themselves. "GPs are of trust. In the same month, an airline pilot struck off for such things," she says. "It's comes the norm, it will be impossible to lie erally happen is being given the sack and year course and failed the final exam. "That number and grades of GCSEs, or indeed in Harrogate was convicted of selling MA all very well to suggest that lying can - at your way into a job."

worst - lead to losing your job; it could also result in never getting another one in the same field." Indeed, according to Stephen Miller, of Harper Macleod, if misconduct occurs as a result of lack of qualifications or experience, aggrieved parties can take legal action against the employers. If that happens, you can be pretty sure that your angry boss will spread the news around and make it hard for you to get another job.

"The problem is that many people know they're good at what they do, so they assume they'll be able to persuade their superiors to keep them on even if their secret is discovered," says Migwell. "This is a mistake I've seen among graduates. They'd probably have a good chance of getting the job with the qualifications and skills they've

got, but they get greedy."

Adrian Buckley, personnel officer at the
University of Birmingham. explains, "You could ask whether lying on one's CV matters as long as the person is doing the job well, but it's a question of trust and confidence. If a person lies on their CV, what else will they lie about?"

Migwell warns graduates that the current high profile of CV abuse is likely to lead to companies checking details. The number using assessment centres, for instance, is rising fast. Here, your claims of speaking four foreign languages fluently and knowing a particular computer pro-gramme inside out could be tested for hours at a time. A few companies are even turning to private investigators to check out potential employees.

Finance managers are the most suspicious of all employers when it comes to applications for jobs. A survey by Robert Half, financial recruitment specialists. found that almost a third believe that half the candidates they see provide false CVs. But their means of extracting the truth are simple. "We ask candidates to substantiate achievements during an interview, and are particularly insistent when [he or she) seems less than enthusiastic about delivering it," says one managing director.

It's a thin line between marketing yourself as the best candidate for the job, and telling outright lies. But, says Angela Edward, "companies are beginning to place far less emphasis on qualifications and more on interpersonal skills. If that be-

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KEITH PATTERSON.

The solutions Gerald Carey-Elwes, Secretary General, British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA) says: You have identified a common problem - how to get the necessary experience to meet the requirements of potential employers. In your case, remember that urban regeneration covers a variety of professional disciplines - such as legal, financial, surveying, design, olanning, landscape, building and engineering. So you may find that a general knowledge of one or several of these other professions will give you an

Then start trying to who are involved in regeneration. On your leading member of the British Urban **EDINBURGH** Regeneration Association

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who would be pleased to discuss the possibility of future employment with you. He is Neil Bradbury, Head of Strategic Initiatives at EDI (Economic Development Investment Ltd) in

Edinburgh, Tel 0131-220

4424. Good luck.

Charles McKean, Professor of Scottish Architectural History, The University of Dundee, says: If employers seek relevant experience and you are currently unemployed, use the time to initiate/develop ideas or projects. Research

issues, identify problems, and uncover and study solutions achieved elsewhere. Also examine your own locality. Then, in your interviews, reveal this knowledge and offer some positive proposals. In this way, you will be able to demonstrate what makes you particular in a practical and applied way, How many of these organisations, for example, understand the "cultural significance" of the places they develop? Existing - albeit

temporary - employees will be seen as "up and running" by employers, so never vegetate. Develop your expertise, network at seminars and meetings and enter relevant competitions. Then, at the next interview, you too will be up and running - and quite possibly ahead.

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If you have a work problem and want expert advice. please write to Carmen Middleditch. Fast Track, Features, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2451; or e-mail c.fielding@ independent.co.uk

# Stop – thieves are at work

It may live on your desk, but it's not yours to keep. By Jenny Madden

WHEN BARRY DALY, a railway worker nicknamed the Fat Controller, was jailed last month for stealing train engines and coaches to sell on to enthusiasts, you probably laughed. Most people did. Who could seriously expect to get away with robbing so blatantly from their employer?

According to a new NOP survey, "Honesty in the Workplace", more people than you think – for it has revealed that almost half of Britain's workforce have stolen something from their employer.

Research shows that, for the new recruit, the stationery cupboard is the most appealing place to start pilfering. Noel Proud, a psychologist, says: While people who steal stationery may simply need it, for some it's more about bringing

a degree of risk to their lives." To top it all, he claims, employees tend to view such pilfering as a victimless crime. Because stationery is as useful outside as inside the office, staff tell themselves that it's one of those little unspoken benefits we don't have to worry about being apprehended for, right? Wrong, It may once have been a harsh employer who their employees - but it has workplace as theft." Ms Edfretted about the odd Biro going missing, but now bosses are fighting back. According to the Association of British Insurers, the value of office goods stolen by employees amounts to as much as £1bn a year

"Staff will steal anything that moves," says the security chief of a big City firm. "Mobile phones, pictures, big pot plants even chairs and filing cabinets. We've even had someone

been largely unsuccessful. since most staff claim that they are legitimately leaving the office with the equipment they need, in order to do their jobs.

Despite the fact that CCTV cameras are the largest growth sector in the security industry, it doesn't take long for an employee to notice where they are and avoid them. And even when the camera does succeed in its task, the result isn't necessar

'Staff will steal anything that moves, from pens to chairs and filing cabinets'

computer on his desk, so that claims Angela Edward. of the he could upgrade his computer Institute of Personnel Developat home.'

Legal Notices

But when you consider the record of employers' procedures to catch staff out, this news is hardly surprising. The BBC, for example, is one of many companies that have recently started spot checks of

take components out of the ily a foregone conclusion, ment "When an employee is caught on camera and apprehended, they rarely show remorse. They usually say, 'Oh,

I forgot to return it. "Even if they ve taken a laptop computer, they rarely re-

ward says. This doesn't make the disciplining process easy for employers.

Nevertheless, says James Reed, director of Reed Personnel Services, increasingly companies are attempting to deter theft by making examples of those who are caught.

"Employers have the power to use disciplinary procedures, and may be very hard on employees who break the rules, whether fiddling expenses or committing serious fraud."

Some firms even test the attitudes and behaviour of potential employees. "Doesn't everyone steal a little?" they may ask you at your interview, incorporating in the test a scale to measure the extent to which you may be presenting an artificially positive picture. The British Security Industry Association estimates that UK companies spent £3.5bn on security measures during 1997.

"Never assume that the punishment will reflect the value of the item you've stolen," adds Angela Edward. A policeman in Essex was recently dismissed after stealing £4 from gard stealing from the a staff "fines" jar.

# Because they're worth it

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story: The parent company is founded in France in 1907 by Eugène Schueller, a chemist, and is now the largest cosmetics producer in the world. Its portfolio includes the signature brand L'Oréal Paris; Laboratoires Garnier, L'Oréal Coiffure; Maybelline New York; Redken; Lancome; Helena Rubinstein; Vichy; Prestige and Collection. It also produces perfumes for Armani, Ralph Lauren and Cacharel.

Address: Headquarters are at 30 Kensington Church Street in west London. There's also a factory in Wales and a distribution centre in Manchester.

Ambience: The company says that "everybody's opinion counts" and describes its working environment as a place that's "informal, friendly, wative, challenging, energetic, international and

#### A-Z OF EMPLOYERS L'OREAL

stylish" - as befits a company

that sets trends. Vitai statistics: Annual

turnover exceeds £300m, and

there are nearly 2,000 employees in the UK, plus 800 staff world-wide. Lifestyle: Some trainees move around the UK during their training period; there's also

the chance to work in different functions and to take responsibility early. The company says it takes a "flexible approach" to employees. Easy to get into? There are

around 30 places on L'Oréal's management trainee scheme, incorporating functions which include sales, marketing, logistics, finance, IT, manufacturing and distribution. Applicants will need to be and medical insurance

"first-rate academics" with intellectual rigour, a combination of analytical and creative skills, and an aptitude for languages, says the company, but no specific degree is asked for. For more details, access the company's website on www.loreal.com

Glittering alumni: L'Oréal's chief executive, Lindsay Owen-Jones, is the only Brit heading a major French company. He is an officer of the French Legion of Honour. The ex-deputy chairman of Sainsbury. Tom Vyner, has just joined L'Oréal UK as its vice-chairman.

Pay: Graduate trainees start on around £20,000, but those with previous relevant qualifications may get extra. There's a sixmonthly review, plus pension

arrangements "and lots of informal feedback".

Training: The company's management training programme lasts from nine to 12 months and is tailored to individual needs, with a modular structure. There are also formal internal and external courses, and in addition, EOréal was a founder member of the Cedep (Centre européen d'education permanente) which uses the business school Insead for training, and has an international management perspective.

Facilities: There's a subsidised canteen and gym, plus a staff shop that sells lots of L'Oréal goodies.

Who's the boss? Lindsay Owen-Jones is the company's chairman and chief executivein-one. Managing director in the UK is Jean-Jacques Lebel. RACHELLE THACKRAY

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# INDEPENDENCE **BRITISH DESIGNED & BUILT** Creditors withing to sole at the Meeting must lodge their grows, lagether with a full statement of account at the registered offices Carestic theore. 2027 Carebin Street Landon SWI 442P na later than 12 noting on the Carestice 1998, but the mass of the Carestice 1998, but the mass of the Carestice 1998.

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British Company... A BRITISH MANUFACTURER **Art Galleries** Unusual Gifts data, 1642-1998, most titles avail able, ideal birthday gift, Remem ber When, Tel: 0181-688 6323. O. CALL FREE 0500 520 000. The new chairman of the Bar Council is a tough-talking humanist with traditional legal values. By John-Paul Flintoff

# One man who is propping up the Bar

St James's Park, professional job. and demands a pint. afternoon at meetings in Parliahis plans for next year and to reveal between sips of beer – how he intends to lead barristers through a period of momentous change.

Unlike some previous Bar chairmen, Brennan, 56, will not waste months thinking about what he is going to do. He already has a timetable, starting early next year with the committee stage of the Access to Justice Bill. "I have really prepared myself," he explains, "because this Government is intent on the most radical change in the legal system for 50 years."

When Brennan was elected as vice-chairman, after just two years on the Bar Council, this was interpreted as a snub to his opponent, Jonathan Hirst QC, who had served for 10 years. But what the Bar needs now, it was decreed, is a leader far removed from the stereotype of the out-of-touch, upper-class silk. Hirst - as an Old Etonian, and son of a previous Bar Council chairman, did

Thus, Heather Hallett QC, the first woman to chair the Bar Council, is succeeded next month by Brennan, who, like Hallett, went to grammar school, and grew up in Bradford (where his father ran a pub). His career at the Bar, representing victims of personal injury and medical negligence, has earned him a reputation that is practically unsurpassed. Brennan's main cases include acting for the timpanist in a Hong Kong orchestra last year, in a claim relating to organo-phosphates, and he also helped to secure damages of £3.9m last month for a care since being deprived of oxygen isn't right."

He has also been instructed to act as the Herald of Free Enterprise, the Marchioness, and the Manchester air crash. The most challenging, he says, was "the one in which patients with haemophilia were given the HIV virus in plasma. Young people died through no fault of their own".

But, he says, this is not a depressing area of law in which to prac-

an Brennan QC a barrister I must be objective. I try cats as "totally unjustified", and if marches briskly to to reassure people that they are not you ask him whether this barristerthe bar of a hotel in to be anxious. I am there to do a

Until the Bar Council began to He has spent the claim too much of his time, Brennan was closely involved with the tobacco ment, where he is due back later. He litigation currently going through the has broken off, briefly, only to discuss courts - which is the first multi-party action undertaken on the basis of no win, no fee. This showed genuine commitment, since the solicitors and barristers involved in the case could face losses of £3m between them if the action fails.

The solicitor leading the case, Martyn Day, knows Brennan well: "You just have to see him with a client. With some silks, the last time they were human was when they were kids. But he is really human, and when he presents a case, you're thinking to yourself: 'Sock it to the bastards!'." Vigorous in court,

'Some silks, the last time they were human was when they were kids - but he's really human, and when he's on a case you think: Sock it to the bastards!'

especially in cross-examination, Brennan says he wanted to be an advocate since he was "a young lad". And he is eager to ensure that people from similar backgrounds can continue to become barristers.

"It would be a tragedy if we went back to the middle-class Bar of the past, but the cost of qualifying puts unreasonable pressure on people 17-year-old girl who requires 24-hour from average backgrounds. That

He joined the Bar Council when government started rais get paid only if they win). "That affected personal injury work, and I became a spokesman on the subject."

Even with a new government in power, there are few areas where Brennan agrees with the Lord Chancellor (beyond a shared dislike

friendly to the Bar, he splutters into his beer and asks: "Who have you

been drinking with, my boy?" But Geoff Hoon MP the minister of state at the Lord Chancellor's department, who is also a barrister, has insisted that the Government's approach is not to ask, "will this harm the Bar?", so much as, "will this help more people?"

Brennan says he welcomes the extension of advocacy rights to solicitors, which is proposed under the forthcoming Access to Justice Bill, but only if they are competent. "Otherwise, the public will get poor representation, and the courts will be log-jammed because of the incompetence, and the legal system will fall into disrepute."

To stem the loss of work to solicitor advocates, Brennan wants chambers to introduce "kite-marks" guaranteeing efficiency and good service. This would enable them to contract directly for cases with the body which will replace the Legal Aid Board, rather than rely on solicitors to farm out the work. He is also likely to reconsider the issue of direct access to the Bar, cutting out the solicitor's traditional role of intermediary, in cases involving companies and other professions.

Earlier this year, Brennan led the Bar Council's opposition to Lord Irvine's suggestion that legal aid should be granted only in cases as sessed as having a 75 per cent chance of success. In making his case, Brennan introduced one of his own clients, Sally Murphy, who was awarded more than £2m because her daughter, deprived of oxygen at birth, suffers from cerebral palsy. Her legally aided case, explained Brennan, would never have passed the 75 per cent threshold, and, with both Murphy and her partner unemployed, the case could not other-

wise have come to court. strated an internation LST OUTLOOK in cases relating to disasters, such ing the issue of conditional fee his wife is Spanish - by urging arrangements (whereby lawyers lawyers across Europe to lobby for damages to be harmonised across the European Union. At present, losing an eye is worth about £5,000 in

Portugal, but £20,000 in Britain. To make the Bar more relevant to the community, he hopes to expand pro bono work, 2nd develop the of wigs). He considers Lord Irvine's civic education programmes with tise. "I am not a social worker, I'm suggestion that barristers are fat schools to deal with human rights.



Earlier this year he also demon- Dan Brennan QC has earned his reputation as a formidable and committed advocate

Nicola Kurtz

DANCING AT LUG!

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See The Index of Comments

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New End Ciaptar

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launched in several languages by the United Nations last week.

should not merely oppose change. put forward its own proposals, such as taking action against lawyers who persistently offer over-optimistic examine the ultimate cost to con-

A book on this subject, which was put for legally aided cases. To support could amount to more than a quar- country has traditionally relied on a together by the English Bar, was their case, Brennan brought in specialists to evaluate the potential impact of conditional fee arrange-He is conscious that the Bar ments on the Bar, some fear that the best barristers, finding themselves On the question of legal aid, the Bar in great demand, will take on only the cases they know that they can win. And he also invited actuaries to

ter of a client's damages award in strong, independent Bar. You can

to one side, the Bar's response to change its professional structure, it such as the government. That will - but not at the cost of its should not be lost amid changes that advice, and continuous assessment sumers. Legal fees, they reported, independence and integrity, "This are economically driven."

Overall, he says, putting his beer rible crime, and for unpopular causes. The Bar has given reprechange has to be seen to be rea-sentation fearlessly, regardless of the soned, well organised, and in the origins of the client, the power of the public interest. If the Bar has to court, or the influence of outsides,

# Mixed year begins and ends wrapped up in Straw

It's been a busy year, with scandals, resignations, extradition, and the biggest shake up for 50 years. By Linda Tsang

THE YEAR is closing in a strik- Mail and The Scotsman (highingly similar way to how it began, with Home Secretary Jack Straw hogging the headlines. At the beginning of 1998, the press were running his picture on any pretext because a juvenile had been accused of a crime - in this case, drugsrelated - but the Attorney General had obtained an injunction against naming the cabinet minister's son who was involved. In the end, the juvenile in question, William Straw, was named in the Scottish Daily above the law.

lighting the differences in the Scottish legal system), and the injunction had to be lifted.

The year end bas, of course, seen Jack Straw involved in what has been cited as one of the most important decisions in international law, with the proceedings in the extradition of General Pinochet to Spain. The decision has had international lawyers and jurists predicting that no leader who has grossly violated human rights will be

an almost unprecedented year of change for the legal system, affecting judges, lawyers and consumers. Despite the press coverage on how he was refurbishing his apartments at Westminster, the Lord Chancellor, outset his aims to modernise justice - as well as modernising his mode of dress.

The Government had already trailed most of its proposals during the year, and The Government's proposals Things went well for the juothese were included in last may signal good and bad news iciary until Richard Gee, a High

In between, there has been month's Queen's Speech. They for the consumer, but for those Court judge, was prosecuted for of the Human Rights Act, which range from a radical overhaul of the 50-year old legal aid system, including a community legal service, to more familyfriendly employment laws. There has also been consultation on reform of divorce law. Lord Irvine, made clear at the including whether prenuptial agreements should be recog-nised, and the Government has also recently issued its consultation paper on how to deal

with delays in house sales.

at the top end of the legal profession, 1998 has not been the

best of years. Judges, in particular, have had mixed fortunes. In an unprecedented move, one High Court judge resigned in February, after three Court of Appeal judges attacked his "intolerable delay" in deciding a case - it took 20 months for Mr Justice Harman to deliver his judgment.

alleged mortgage fraud of £1m. The trial ended with a hung jury, and the Attorney General intervened to decide that there should not be a retrial. And the recent House of Lords decision on Pinochet has had Lord Hoffman's connections with Amnesty International put under the spotlight by five other

Law Lords. On the positive side, the Pinochet case has highlighted awareness of human rights,

will come into effect in 2000. And judges have also been involved in heading inquiries that are likely to have a profound effect on the legal system, such as the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, the BSE inquiry and the Bloody Sunday inquiry.

Lower down the legal echelons, the Bar came under attack with the Government's proposals to end its near monopoly on appearing in the higher courts, and the unprecedented and coincides with the passing House of Lords' inquiry into the

fees claimed from the legal ai fund in June by four QCs. Even solicitors have had

mixed fortunes. Many of the City firms have recorded record profits, and a number have also expanded globally: Linklaters & Alliance will merge with four European firms to become one of the largest legal firms in the world, and Freshfields has expanded, both in Europe and in the US,

as has Allen & Overy. The success of many law firms has been confirmed by the figures released by the Office for National Statistics overseas earnings for law firm jumped 20 per cent, to 2644m. But success has its price - recent reports from the National Crime Intelligence Service show a number of high street law firms and City law firms currently under investigation

for money-laundering. At the other end of the legal system, for the consumers of legal services this year saw the highest number of complaints against both barristers and solicitors, which has fuelled calls for the profession to dispense with self-regulation. The Office for the Supervision of Solicitors, the Legal Services' Ombudsman and the lay commissioner for complaints against barris-ters have all signalled to lawyers that legal services have to be improved. The main weapon in their armoury is that the Government - in the shape of the Lord Chancellor, who is looking for value for money in his reforms - is right behind them.

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## QUOTES OF THE YEAR

"Someone once said you have to suffer for your art. And this isn't even my art." The Lord Chancellor on his afficial home restoration

"There is no doubt that the public perception is that judges are [too soft, and out of touch]. They think we start work at 11. finish at three, spend two hours in a West End club sipping sherry... and that we are totally removed from anything to do with real life. It is certainly not true." Lord Saville of Newdigate when the Home Office was reported as considering suggesting story lines for soap operas as part of a PR offensive to increase public confidence in judges and

"It stems from the days when women were thought to have nothing better to do than flounce around the house with a duster. So they were admitted in the

daytime, but after certain hours and at weekends they got only restricted access... The view was, you can't have all those skirts clogging up the greens." Georgina James, deputy chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission. on its plans to extend sex private sports clubs

"Lawyers are eunuchs. We know how to do it, we see it done every day, yet we don't do it ourselves. Solicitor John Verrill, vicepresident of the Insolvency Lawyers Association, on how lawyers are sent to the back room when they are instructed in liquidations

The use of the word 'nigger' by you indicates a real hatred of a black person, doesn't it?" "I wouldn't say so. It's just a word that comes out sometimes." Michael Mansfield QC questioning Gary Dobson at the Stephen Lawrence

"I have never seen myself as a 'radical lawyer'. I think the term is an oxymoron. It is the barrister's duty to be independent and I remain so.' Geoffrey Robertson QC on being a radical lawyer

What democracy demands is that the people best suited to the jobs are appointed to them, not people who happen to know those in power. And that is also what the law requires." Solicitor Jane Coker, who brought an industrial tribunal action against the Lord Chancellor on his appointment of special adviser Garry Hart

"No, this is not sour grapes.

"There is an element of truth in the public's view that the granting of silk constitutes a licence to print money. It is undoubtedly the occasion and pretext for a mark-up on fees." Mr Justice Lightman. as part of his speech to the Chancery Bar Association

#### **NEW FILMS**

THE BOYS (18) **Director:** Rowan Woods Starring: David Wenham. Toni Collette. Lynette Curran

ntoff

Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, oldest "hoy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back Mills heartwarmer into a spry, cross-cultural into his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend (Toni Collette), and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen.

Adapted from Gordon Graham's acclaimed stage-play, The Boys spotlights the flipside of life Down Under, with a stark social-realist drama circling gracefully around a horrific crime which is hinted at but never actually shown.

Occasionally, the film's theatrical origins are too readily apparent, but Rowan Woods' stealthy handling and Wenham's menacing lead ensure that the interest seldom dwindles. Potent, predatory stuff.

West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG) Director: Martin Campbell

Starring: Antonio Banderas. Anthony Hopkins. Catherine Zeta Jones

The Zorro yarn resurrected. Martin 'GoldenEye' Campbell's gaudy swashbuckler gallops fullspeed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics jostles for purchase character study (Duchovny wants his licence back) amid a riot of colourful duels and clattering action to surrealistic comedy an encounter with a setpieces. It's old-fashioned and reliably entertaining. Anthony Hopkins and Catherine Zeta-Jones bring a whiff of the valleys to their father-and-daughter co-star slots.

House, Elephant & Castle Coronet. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village Leicester Square. Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Director: Nancy Meckler

Starring: Lindsay Lohan, Natasha Richardson The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue; re-heating its 1961 Hayley caper starting Lindsay Lohan as the separatedat-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to get their parents (Natasha Richardson and Dennis Quaid) back together. It's a film of sleek, clean surfaces, bright colours and neat knockabout comedy. But a thick layer of syrup covers every inch.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin

PLAYING GOD (18) Director: Andy Wilson

Starring: David Duchovny, Timothy Hulton Cracker director Wilson suffers a rude lesson in Hollywood politics with this glossy but garbled thriller about a junkie doctor (David Duchovny) embroiled with a gang of counterfeiters headed by a hammy Tim Hutton.

Essentially a star vehicle for Duchovny, Playing God nonetheless conspires to steer a most ill-disciplined course, swerving from grisly violence (cue jets of arterial blood) to a po-faced bunch of saintly bikers). Hutton and his cronies indulge in all manner of insipid gangster chat, but they look like a limp and spindly bunch who would be hard pushed fighting their way out of a paper West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture bag. Duchovny and luminous co-star Angeline Jolie look on stupefied.

Nathaniel Hulley

#### **GENERAL RELEASE**

ANTZ (PG)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to Babe tosses the hapless "sheeppig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak, animatronic fairytale.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Morble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

**BLADE** (18)

tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its tinny pedigree. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kens-Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the home coming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature. West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Screen on the Hill

**DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)** 

All the students at writer-director Dan Rosen's THE NEGOTIATOR (15) nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight-A grades to the room-mates of suicides. Dead Man's Curve delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks.

West End: Ritzy Cinema

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18) Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, and the one stand-out Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero is Johnny Depp, who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life.

West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town. Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green. Virgin Haymarket

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Curzon Soho

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U) Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being. with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a thick vein of bile, and, at the day's end, this is the making of the film; turning it into a bittersweet salute

to the little man who makes a big difference.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minema, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

dangerous old-school pro.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Panton Street. Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this Odeon Mezzanine, Rio Cinema, Warner Village

MULAN (U)

ington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy pro-active heroine who doesn't want to tend to a most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made.

Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

Cinema, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

in this thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate performers.

Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin

**RONIN** (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon West End,

RUSH HOUR (15)

Rush Hour marries the Hong Kong action icon Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director (Money Tulks' Ratner) and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. Its caffeinated plotline sends Easterner and Westerner on the trail of a Chinese crime syndicate, and oscillates wildly between Tucker's verbal dexterity and Chan's adrenalised physicality. It's a hit-andmiss affair.

West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensinaton, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsen, Virgin Trocadero. Warner Village West End

Krabbe's first stab as a director focuses on the ebbs and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers plus rising star Laura Fraser.

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a

This Disney's animated feature has it all: a man or pet woodland animals; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also one of the

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon

UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

(0171-930 3647) & Charing

**CINEMA** WEST END

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from

director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock

spots off every previous Elmore Leonard

adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and

Jennifer Lopez the most romantic pairing of the

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast

stars Woody Allen (below) as a worker ant who

becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's

totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

All that one would expect from a film by Ken Loach

- emotional sympathy, indignation and humour -

all driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense

performance as a recovering alcoholic in a bleak

Gary Cooper plays a visionary architect

who refuses to buckle under mob pressure in King

Vidor's astonishing adaptation of the Avn Rand

novel. Patricia Neal smoulders opposite him.

Out of Sight (15)

cinematic year.

Ronin (15)

Stellan

John Frankenheimer's

buttressed by a fine

international cast (Robert

De Niro, Jean Reno,

moody French locations

and a clutch of super-

My Name is Joe (15)

charged car chases.

vision of Glasgow.

The Fountainhead

(PG; Curzon Soho)

Skarsgard).

action thriller

ABC BAKER STREET (0870 9020418) © Baker Street Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 8.30pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870 9020404) © Piccadilly Circus The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm. 3.40pm. 6pm. 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm. 3.35pm, 6pm. 8.30pm A Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm form 8.30pm 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) © Piccadilly Greus Dead Man's Curve 4.05pm, 8.45pm Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3,50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm **Victory** 1.10pm, 6.10pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE 3.20pm, 7.05pm, 9pm Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE Square Angel Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm The Governess 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Left Luggage 1.30pm, 6.55pm Rien Ne Va Plus 4.45pm, 9.05pm La Vie Revée Des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm. 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ROAD

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT (0870 9020414) O Tottenham Court Road Antz 1.25pm, 6.35pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.20pm Elizabeth 3.40pm, 8.55pm **My Name is Joe** 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm The Negotiator 8.50pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) 
Barbican
Babe: Pig In the City 1.30pm,
6pm, 8.15pm The Mask of Zorro

6pm, 8.40pm CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742)  $\Theta$  Sloane Square On Connaît La Chanson 1pm, 3,30pm, 6pm, 8,35pm

Otto 17-734 2255 (12pm-opm)

Leicester Square/Tottenham
Court Road The Eel 1.30pm,
4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm The
Fountainhead 2.45pm, 9.30pm
Henry Fool 3.20pm, 9pm It's A
Wonderful Life 12.45pm,
6.30pm The Philadelphia Story
13.20pm, 5pm, 7.15pm 12.30pm, 5pm, 7.15pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) ← Elephant & Castle Babe: Pig In the City 4pm. 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 4.30pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0990-888990) & Leicester Square Babe: Pig in the City 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. 9pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) + Notting Hill Gate It's a Wonderful Life 1.40pm; (+ Short: Whoosh) Out of Sight 4.10pm. 6.40pm. 9.05pm ICA CINEMA

oss Bernie 8.30pm Ran 5pm. 8.15pm Themroc 6.30pm (0171-734 1506) Piccadilly Circus The Boys 2pm. 4.15pm. 6.30pm, 8.45pm Buffalo 66 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm (0171-369 1723) O Hyde Park Corner Left Luggage 2.50pm. 6.50pm La Vie Revée Des Anges

ANTHONY QUINN

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705)  $\oplus$  Notting Hill Gate Dancing at Lughnass 2.30pm. 4.30pm. 6.30pm.

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(08705 050007) ← Camden Town
Babe: Pig in the City 12.10am,
2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm The
Mask of Zorro 11.50am,
2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The
Negotiator 8.20pm Out of Sight
12noon, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm
The Parent Trap 12.15pm,
2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Rush
Hour 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm,
6.40pm, 9.05pm **ODEON CAMDEN TOWN** 

**ODEON HAYMARKET** (08705 050007) & Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm,

ODEON KENSINGTON (08705 050007) → High Street Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 12noon, 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm Blade 9.35pm The Mask Of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.40pm 8.55pm Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 12noon, 3pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm Ronin 12.30pm, Hour 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm.

**ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE** 

(08705 050007) & Marble Arch Babe: Pig in the City 11.55am, 2.10pm, 4.45pm, 6.35pm The Mask of Zorro 11.45pm, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 9pm The Negotiator 8.55 Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.55pm The Parent Trans 8.55pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm. 3.05pm. 5.55pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 11.50am, 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm

**ODEON MEZZANINE** (08705 050007) O Leicester Elizabeth 12.35pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm. 3.55pm. 6.20pm, 1.25pm, 3.55pm. 6.20pm, 8.35pm Les Miserables 2.35pm,

ODEON WEST END Square The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm 12.35pm,

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

(0171-494 4153) & Piccadity Circus Everest 12.35pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm T-Rex: Back To The Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm. 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm PHOENIX CINEMA

Luggage 1.45pm 6.45pm, 9pm (0990-888990) Circus Antz 1.15pm, 3.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm.

6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private

Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm The Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm Twilight 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm (0171-837 8402) O Russell Square On Connaît La Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Philadelphia Story 1 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm 1.30pm,

(0171-254 6677) BR: Dalston Kingsland Henry Fool 8.30pm Left Luggage 4pm, 6.15pm

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Royal Shakespeare

Theatre. Stratford Anthony Ward's splendid sets and Aslan are the stars of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Christmas spectacular, To 27 Feb

Martin Guerre West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

The gifted young Irish director Conall Morrison stages a second reworking of the troubled Boubil/ Schoenberg musical. Will it be third time lucky? To 13 Feb

**Love Upon the Throne** Comedy Theatre

hat To 9 Jun

The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent (above). Hilarious and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

Angela Carter Cinderella

Lyric, Hammersmith This feast of inspired silliness and visual magic by Angela Carter has lashings of drag and double entendres, plus the best mice on a West End stage.

The Boy Who Fell Into a Book Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough Typically witty and ingenious concept from Alan Ayekbourn - here wearing his children's dramatist

4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

INCI WHITELEYS

VIRGIN CHELSEA

9.15pm

0870-9070710) <del>O</del>

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END

(0171-437 4343) & Leicester

quare Blade 1.20pm, 4pm. 5.40pm, 9.20pm The Exercist

(25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 2.50pm. 5.40pm. 8.30pm Lock, Stock &

Tiwo Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm The Negotiator 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm A Perfect Murder

1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Playing God 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 1.50pm, 3.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.50pm, 7pm, 8.20pm,

CINEMA

LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE

(0181-896 0066) @ Park Royal Antz

(0870-9070711)

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Aubrey Beardsley

Victoria & Albert Museum Displaying the short, glittering life of the aesthete and illustrator, with his sinuous and florid line. Drawings, prints and posters. To 10 Jun

**Louise Bourgeois** Serpentine Gallery Veteran French-American sculptress, still a leading light at 87, shows new installations in which a giant mother/spider presides over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay. To 10 Jan

Goya: The Disparates Maidstone Museum & Art Gallery

Goya was deaf, ill and in his seventies when he produced his last series of etchings. Mysterious in intention, it is a void world: life is folly, men fly off

on wings into darkness. To 23 Jan

Chris Ofili Whitworth Gallery, Manchester

This 1998 Turner Prize-winner is an upbeat original. his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirts of dots. eyes, Afros and black icons, as well as incorporating mutant balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating the romantic and medievalist nether world of Burne-Jones (above). To 17 Jan

ТОМ ЦИВВОСК

The Negotiator 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.30pm Out of Sight 6.10pm, 9.05pm The Parent Trap 2.50pm,

(0171-733 2229) BR/\(\Theta\) Brixton
The Boys 1.30pm, 3.25pm,
5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.25pm The
End of Violence 2pm It's a 5.50pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 2pm, 2.40pm, 4.20pm, 5.05pm, 6.50pm, Wonderful Life 1pm, 6.25pm (+ Short: Whoosh) The Mask of 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 9.55pm Zorro 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm My Name is Joe 3.45pm, 9.10pm ODEON (08705 050007) & High Barnet Antz 1.40pm, 3.25pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm The Mask of Zorro (+ Short: The Man Who held His Breath) Out of Sight 1.10pm. 3.55pm, 6.35pm. 9.15pm (+ Short: Vacuum) Rush Hour

1.55pm, 4.55pm, 7.55pm The Ne-gotlator 8.10pm Out of Sight 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 1.45pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Rush Hour 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) & Baker Street Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Out of Sight 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm BECKENHAM ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Becken-ABC (08/0 9020412) BK: Beckenham Junction Babe: Pig in the City 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 8.55pm The Parent Trap 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

(0171-226 3520) → Highbury & Islington Elizabeth 3.35pm La Vie Revée Des Anges 6.15pm, BECKENHAM STUDIO (0181-663 0901) Three Colours Red 8pm SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) ⊕ Belsize Park Dancing at Lughnasa 2.45pm. 4.45pm. 6.45pm My Name is Joe

BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bexleyheath Antz 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 7.40pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.30pm, 1.15pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm, 5pm, 6pm Blade 2pm,

Babe: Pig in the City 3.50pm, 4.40pm, 6.20pm, 7.10pm Blade 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 2.30pm, 6pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm The 7.15pm, 9.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Out of Sight Ipm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.40pm The Parent Trap 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, Out of Sight 3.30pm, 6.40pm. 9.15pm The Parent Trap 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9.05pm Ronin 8.40pm Rush Hour 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm Ronin 9.40pm Rush Hour 12.20pm, 2.35pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 8pm, 9.35pm, 10pm There's Something About Mary 9.40pm Snake Eyes 9.30pm

BROMLEY quare/South Kensington Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm My Name is Joe 9pm ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South Antz phone for details Babe: Pig in the Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap City phone for details The Mask of 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, Zorro phone for details Mulan phone for details Out of Sight phone for details The Parent Trap phone

for details Rush Hour phone for de-Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm Elizabeth 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Mask CATFORD ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford. Babe: Pig in the City 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm The Negotiator 8pm Rush zpm. 5.30pm. 8.20pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.20pm. 3.10pm. 6.10pm. 9.10pm The Negotiator 12.40pm. 3.30pm. 6.20pm. 9.15pm Playing God 1.30pm. 4.10pm. 7.10pm. 9.30pm Ronin 9.30pm There's Something Hour 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030)

BR: Croydon West/East It's A Won-derful Life 2.45pm, 8.30pm LA. About Mary 12.50pm, 3.20pm, vate Ryan 5.15pm

Blade 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smok-ing Barrels 9.45pm The Mask of Ing Barreis 9.43µm fae Mask of Zorro 12noon. 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Negotiator 11.40am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 12.50pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm The Parent Trap 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) ⊕ Dagenham Heathway Antz 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 5.45pm, 7.40pm. 9.40pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.50pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 7.50pm Blade 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm. 10.05pm Lock. Stock & Two Sn ing Barrels 9.15pm The Mask of Zorro 1.35pm. 4.20pm, 7.05pm, 9.50pm The Negotiator 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm Out of Sight 2pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm, 10pm The Parent Trap 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 1.10pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.20pm,

VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR/O Ealing Broadway Babe: Fig in the City 1.15pm. 3.30pm. 5.45pm The Mask of Zor-ro 2pm. 5.30pm. 8.30pm Our of Sight 8.15pm Rush Hour 2.30pm. 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

EDGWARE
BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) O Edgware Antz 2.15pm, 4pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate phone for nes Kuch Kuch Hota Hai phone for times Mehadi phone for times

Pardeshi Babu phone for times The Parent Trap 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Wajood phone for times 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm, 1.30pm, 2.20pm. EDMONTON 3.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm Blade 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) & Tottenham Hale Antz 2.40pm, 3.35pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Bar-rels 10.10pm The Mask of Zorro Babe: Pig in the City 3pm, 4.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm Blade 7.05pm, 10pm Doli Sajake Rakhna 8.15pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 9.05pm The Mask of Zorro 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm The Negotiator 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 3.10pm, 6.20pm, 9.25pm The Parent Trap 11.50am, 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm Ronin 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.35pm Rush Hour 2.30pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.15pm, 10.10pm Saving Private Ryan 9pm Small Soldiers 2.10pm, 4.40pm There's Something About Mary 6.10pm Blade 7.05pm, 10pm Doli Sajake

FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) © East Finchley/Finchley

9344) & East Finchley/Finchley
Central Antz 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm,
8.40pm Babe: Pig in the City
2pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm Blade
9.45pm The Negotiator 3pm,
6.20pm, 9.20pm Out of Sight
1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm
The Parent Trap 2.30pm, 5.30pm,
8.30pm Ronin 1.20pm, 4pm,
6.40pm Rush Hour 2.10pm,
4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm

FINCHLEY ROAD

WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) & Finchley Road Antz 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 5.50pm, 8pm Babe: Pig in The City 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 7.40pm Fear And Loathing in Las Wages 10pm Loach as 10om Lock Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 10.15pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Negotiator 1pm, 3.55pmm, 6.55pm, 9.45pm Out of Sight 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The Parest Trap 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm Ronin 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

**GOLDERS GREEN** ABC (0181-455 1724) Golders Green Babe: Pig In the City 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm The Gov-

CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Antz 12noon, 3 5.15pm Elizabeth 7pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Out of Sight 9.15pm Rush Hour 3.05pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm

HAMPSTEAD Park Antz 6pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.30pm Out of Sight 2.20pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm. 5.20pm.

HARROW SAFARI (0181-426 0303) & Harrow on the Hill Fire 7pm Kudrat 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm The Soldier

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) © Harrow on the Hill Antz 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.15pm Babe: Pig in The City 11.45am, 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm Blade 11.05am, 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm Fear and Loathir in Las Vegas 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 11.15am. 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 2.40pm, 6.45pm, 9.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.45pm Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 9.45pm The Parent Trap 1.05pm, 3.55pm, 6.45pm, 9.25pm Rush Hour 11am, 11.50am, 1.30pm, 2.10pm, 4.0pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 2.10pm, 4.0pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm 2.10pm, 4.0pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 7.10pm, 9pm, 9.40pm

HOLLOWAY ODEON (08705 050007) & Archway Antz 12.30pm, 2.35pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm, 2.15pm. 4.25pmm, 6.35pm Blade 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 1.50pm, 4.55pm, 8.15pm The Negotiator 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Out of Sight 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.20pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Ronin 8.40pm, 8.45pm, Bush Hour, 13.05pm 8.40pm Rush Hour 12.05pm, 1.45pm, 2.20pm, 4pm, 4.35pm, 6.15pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm, 9.05pm

ILFORD ODEON (08705 050007) & Gants Hill Antz 2.35pm, 4.25pm, 6.25pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm Blade 8.25pm The Mask of Zorro 1.50pm, 5pm, 8pm Out of Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

KILBURN TRICYCLE THEATRE (0171-328 1000) O Kilburn Dancing at Lughnasa 6.30pm, 8.45pm Silk Stockings 3pm

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 6.25pm Blade 8.25pm The

Parent Trap 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

5.30pm, 8.15pm Snake Eyes 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, Confidential 12.15pm Saving Pri-West End: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero **CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE** VIRGIN HAYMARKET CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 3323) © Clapham
Common Babe: Pig in the City
1.45pm. 4.15pm. 6.45pm it's a
Wonderful Life 1.30pm. 6.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking
Barrels 4pm. 9.15pm The Mask
of Zorro 12.45pm. 3.30pm. (0870-9070712) O Piccadilly Circus Fear and Loathing in Las WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Antz 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm Babe: Pig in the City 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.45pm, 7.20pm ELIZABETH (15) Vegas 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6pm. 8.35pm My Name is Joe 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. 8.45pm There's Something Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to Bandit Queen is the ODEON SWISS COTTAGE story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a ON CONNAIT LA CHANSON (PG) (08705 050007) Swiss Cottage Antz 1.50pm, 3.50pm, 6pm 8.45pm Love him or loathe him, Last Year at Marienbad male world. But Kapur largely neglects the About Mary 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm 6.15pm, 9pm Out of Sight Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm oportunities for fun in a film which ultimately tells auteur Resnais is a queer fish. Four years after 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm Elizabeth 8.15pm Left Luggage 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 1.40pm, 4.55pm, 8pm Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 3.45pm the Continental breakfast he made of Alan a tale of independence triumphing over cruelty. VIRGIN TROCADERO WIRGIN TROCADERO
(0870-9070716) ← Piccadilly
Circus Antz 12.10pm, 2.20pm.
4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Babe:
Pig in the City 1pm, 3.20pm,
5.40pm, 8.10pm Blade 12.10pm,
3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm The
Negotiator 2pm, 5.30pm.
8.20pm Out of Sight 12mon **CURZON MAYFAIR** West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Ayekbourn's Smoking/No Smoking comes this (0171-369 1720) & Green Park Dancing At Lughnasa 2pm, 4,15pm, 6,30pm, 9pm rattling merry-go-round of romantic intrigue, Haymarket, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cot-"inspired by the work of Dennis Potter", and tage, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road featuring a lot of Potteresque lip-synching to 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour 1.30pm. **CURZON SOHO** popular French show tunes. THE END OF VIOLENCE (15) (0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm) 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Wim Wenders is back on form with this stylish and West End: Chelsea Cinema, Renoir Negocator 2pm. 5.30pm. 8.30pm Out of Sight 12noon. 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm. 4.40pm. 7pm, 9.20pm The Truman Show intelligent techno-noir about a Nasa plot to "end (08705 050007) & Leicester violence as we know it" through mass surveillance. **OUT OF SIGHT (15)** 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

ODEON (08705 050007) & Highgate Babe: Pig in the City 1.50pm, 4pm, 6.15pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Out of ht 8.35pm The Parent Trap

2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Antz 12noon, 3.30pm, 5.15pm Babe: Plg in the City 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm Blade 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Elizabeth 7pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm The Negotiator 8.40pm Out of Sight 9.20pm The Parent Trap 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9pm Rush Hour 3.05pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm

**PURLEY** ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Babe: Pig in the City 5.50pm Blade 8.15pm The Parent Trap 5.05pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 5.35pm, 8.35pm

ABC (0870 9020401) © Putney Bridge. BR: Putney. Antz 5,15pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm The Negotiator 8.15pm Out of Sight 2,15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2,15pm, 5,15pm, 8.15pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O Richmond The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

**ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007)** BR/9- Richmond Antz 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm Babe: Pig In the City 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm Dancing at Lughnasa 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Negotiator 8.40pm, Out of Sight 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm Ronin 8.50pm

**ROMFORD** ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm. 3.30pm, 5.30pm Elizabeth 8.05pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 6.05pm Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm Babe: Pig In the City 8.40pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Bar-rels 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro 2pm. 5.05pm, 8pm out of Sight 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3pm. 5.40pm, 8.20pm Rush Hour 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9pm SIDCUP

ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Babe: Pig in The City 5.45pm Eliz-abeth 5.20pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 8.40pm STAPLES CORNER

VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood Antz 2,15pm, 4,30pm, 6,45pm Babe: Pig in the City 1,30pm, 3,45pm, 6pm, 8,15pm Blade 3pm, 3,45pm, 5,45pm, 8,30pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Out of Sight 8.45pm The Parent Trap 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm Rush Hour 1pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm. 9.15pm STREATHAM

ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Antz 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Babe: Pig in The City 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 8.40pm Out of Sight 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Babe: Pig in The City 1.20pm. 3.40pm, 6pm Blade 12.20pm, 3pm. 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Negotiator 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

STRATFORD

NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR/O Stratford East Babe: Fig In the City 2pm, 4.15pm. 6.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.10pm. 3pm. 5.50pm, 8.35pm Out of Sight 8.45pm The Parent Trap 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm

**SURREY QUAYS** UCI (0990 888990) & Surrey Quays Antz 3.45pm, 6.10pm Babe: Fig in the City 3.15pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 7pm, 7.45pm, 10pm Blade 3.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.30pm. 9.30pm The Negotiator 8.30pm Out of Sight 4pm. 6.40pm, 9.30pm The Parent Trap 3pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Ronin 9.15pm Rush Hour 4pm, 4.45pm, 6.20pm, 7.15pm, 9pm,

SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton/@ Morden Antz 2.30pm. 4.45pm Babe: Pig in The City 2pm. 3pm. 4.30pm, 6.45pm Blade 5.45pm The Mask of Zorro 3.15pm 6.15pm 9.30pm The Ne-gotiator 9.15pm Out of Sight 7pm, 9.45pm The Parent Trap 2.45pm, 5pm, 8.45pm Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Pri-vate Ryan 8.30pm

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) Tumpike Lane. Babe: Pig in the City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 4.30pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm

ODEON (08705 050007) O Uxbridge Babe: Pig in The City 1.30pm. 4pm. 6pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-9020424) & Waitha stow Central Babe: Pig In the City 2.20pm. 5pm The Negotiator 8pm The Parent Trap 2pm. 5pm, 8pm Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm,

**WALTON ON THAMES** THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-

252825) BR: Walton on Thames Babe: Pig in the City 4.25pm, 6.30pm The Mask of Zorro 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm Les Mis-erables 2pm Out of Sight 8.30pm WELL HALL

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham Babe: Pig in the City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O
Wimbledon Antz 12.25pm, 2.15pm,
4pm Babe: Pig in the City
12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 11.45am, 2,30pm, 5.20pm, 8.15pm Out of Sight 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 11.45am, 2.35pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm Ronin 8.30pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Small Soldlers 11.50am

NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) Tumpike Lane Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 1,30pm, 8,30pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hal 5pm

WOODFORD WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) ← South
Woodford Babe: Pig in the City
1.25pm, 4pm, 6.20pm Lock, Stock
& Two Smoking Barrels 8.30pm
The Negotlator 1.40pm, 5pm,
8pm The Parent Trap 2.10pm,
5.30pm, 8.10pm

MOOTMICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm, Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

#### CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place
9W7 (0171-838 2144/2146) L'Ado-

THE LUX Hoxton Square N1 (0171-684 0201) Phallic Pleasures: Cinerova Showcase Shorts (NC) 7pm Peeping Tom (18) 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 NFI South Bank SET (0171-926 3232) The X-Files (15) 2.30pm, 6.10pm Valley of The Dolls + Interview With Barbara Parkins (NC) 6.30pm Man With A Movie Camera (PG) 7.30pm Hana-Bi (18) 8.30pm

THE OLD TRUMAN BREWERY Brick Lane E1 (0171-247 8881) Film Master Class 2: With Sally Hibbin and Ken Loach (NC) 6.30pm PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place

WC2 (0171-437 8181) Fire (15) 3.30pm Sliding Doors (15) 6.10pm Armageddon (12) 8.45pm RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) Time of The Gypsles (15) 6.30pm + Gadjo Di-lo (15) 9.10pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street (0181-568 1176) Hamam: The Turkish Bath (Il Bagno Turco Hammam) (NC) 1.30pm, 9pm The Disappearance of Finbar (15)

4.45pm Les Miserables (12) 6.45pm

BRIGHTON DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) Dancing At Lughnasa (PG) 4.15pm, 9pm It's A Wonderful Life (U) 6.30pm

CUBE (0114-907 4191) My Name is Joe (15) 7pm Fear And Loathing in Las Vegas (18) 9pm

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Henry Fool (18) 5.30pm, 8.15pm La Vie Revée Des Anges (18) 6pm Dancing At Lughnasa (PG) 8.25pm CAMBRIDGE

Dancing At Lughnasa (PG) 1pm, 7.15pm Left Luggage (PG) 3pm, 9.15pm The Land Girts (12) 5pm CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-

Hood (Ú) 6.15pm Elizabeth (15) FILM THEATRE 01473-215544 1 Want You (18) 2.30pm, 6.15pm Funny Games (18) 6pm Charac-ter (15) 8.15pm Divorcing Jack

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Bar-rels (18) 2.30pm, 5.45pm The Last Days of Disco (15) 8.15pm

#### **CINEMA** COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON ABC EAST STREET (01273-327010): Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in The City (U): Out Of Sight (15): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15)

ODEON (01273-207977): Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U); Blade (18): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Mulan (U): Out of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): Ronin (15); Rush Hour (15); There's Something About

VIRGIN (0541-555145); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in the Ctty (U): Blade (18): Dr Dolittle (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Mulan (U): The Negotiator (15): Out of Sight (15): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): Ronin (15): Rush Hour (15): Small Soldlers (PG)

CAMBRIDGE WARNER VILLAGE (01223-460442): 101 Dalmatians (U): Anex (PG); Babe: Pig in The City (U); Blade (18); Fear And Loathing in Las Vegas (18); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The Mask of Zorro (PG): Mulan (U): The Nego-tiator (15); Out of Sight (15): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): Ronin (15); Rush Hour (15): Small Soldlers (PG); There's Something About Mary (15) nething About Mary (15)

GLOUCESTER VIRGIN (0541-555174); Antz (PG); Vikigh (US41-3031/4); ARICE [PO]; Babe: Pig in the City (U): Blade (13): Dr Dollttle (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Mulan (U): out of Sight (15): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15): Small Soldiers (PG)

MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE
ODEON LOCHMEADOW (08705050007): 101 Dalmatians (U);
Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in The City
(U); Blade (18): Ever After (PG);
Fear And Loathing in Las
Vegas (18); Home Alone 3 (PG);
The Mask of Zorro (PG); Roald
Daln's Matilda (PG); Mulan (U); The
Nesociator (15): Our of Sight Negociator (15): Out of Sight (15): The Parent Irap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): Rush Hour (15): Small Soldlers (PG)

ABC GEORGE STREET (0541 550501): Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in The City (U): Miracle on 34th Street (1994 Version) (U): Out Of Sight 1994 Version) (U): Out Of Sight 15): The Parent Trap (PG): Ronin

ABC MAGDALEN STREET (0541-550509): The Prince of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15): Small Soldiers (PG)

PHOENIX PICTURE HOUSE (01865-554909); Bulworth (NC): Dancing at Lughnasa (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); Faster Pussycat, Kill! Kill! (18); Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (18); Fire (15): It's a Wonderful Life (U); I Want You (18): Kuch Xuch Hota Hai (PG): Small Solders (PG); La Vie Revée Des Anges (18): Will It Snow For Anges (18): Will it Snow For Christmas? (12)

## **THEATRE**

Ticket availability details are for to-Index availability details are for to-day; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. • — Seats at all prices • — Seats at some prices O — Returns only: Mattness — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri. [7]: Sat

DE B22 AND ABOUT THE BOY Three friends and their respective problems are put under the micro-scope in Ed Hime's new drama. Preceded by a new short. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambas-sadors) West Street. WC2 (017)sadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq. Mon-Frl 7.15pm, 10p-£10, double bill (7.15pm & 9pm performances on same night) £7.50-£15.

ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gleigud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm. £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins.

 AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's ac-claimed drama. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/\to Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

● ANNIE Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/& Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1] 4pm, £7,50-£32.50, 165 mins.

ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wynd-ham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) & Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7][1] 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

b BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) & Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, booking to June 26, 518 50-525 150 pins £18.50-£35. 150 mins.

• THE BEST OF TIMES Revuestyle show featuring the sones of Jen-ry Herman. Vaudeville Strand, W(2 (0171-836 9987) BR/O Charing X. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £9.50-£27.50.

sell's long-running Liverpool musi-cal melodrama. Phoenix Charing 

• BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-836 0479) & Charling X/Embankment, Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.30pm, [6] 5.30pm, [7] 5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50. ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)

● BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ● Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£27, half price Friday matinees. 399666) The Adventures of Robin

• CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) 9 Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£35. 165 mins. O CHICAGO Maria Friedman and

way musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ♦ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee). 130 mlns.

D CONDERELLA Angela Carter's version of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith. Today 1.30pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£18, concs £6.50.

• THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through \$7 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm. (5] 3pm. [7] 5pm. [1] 4pm. £6-£25. Thu mats - all seats £10.

DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henstage auspiets. London Apollo Hammersmith Queer Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) & Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. £10-£32.50. 150 mlns.

• FAME THE MUSICAL High-octane stage version of the TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Coventry Street. W1 (0171-839 5972) © Leic So/Plcc Circ. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5,30pm & 8,30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 16 Jan, £15-£30.

') FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timber-lake Wertenbaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Pic-cadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ◆ Picc Circ. Today 3pm,

ends 27 Jan. £12-£18. 145 mins. FOUR AND DAUGHTERS Richard Wilson directs Christopher Shinn's debut work. Preceded by a short Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq. Tue-Frl, 9pm, 10p-£10, double bill (7.15pm & 9pm performances on

same night) £7.50-£15. GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film about life in an American high school. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) [4][7] 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christ pher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) O Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm. booking to 27 Feb. £8-£29.50. 165 mins.

• AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) • Delic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm. Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm. [7] 5pm, £10.50-£25. 110 mlns.

INTO THE WOODS Sondheim and Lapine's acclaimed musical about the sinister side of fairy tales TRICYCLE THEATRE The Snow fairytales. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street. WC2 (0171-369 1732) ⊕ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, booking to 13 Feb. £15-£27.50.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE Time Stoppard's play about the life of po-et A E Houseman, author of The Shropshire Lad. Theatre Royal, 7,30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-

• JESUS, MY BOY Tom Contistars in John Dowie's alternative Christ-mas show. Apollo Shaftesbury Av-erue, W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc, Crc. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, [1] 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

● KAFKE'S DICK Eric Sykes and Julia Mackenzie star in Alan Ben-nett's comedy about the moribund wide: Piccadilly Demma Street, WI (0171-369 1734) ◆ Picc Circ. Tonight 8pm, ends 26 Feb, £12-£30.

• LOVE UPON THE THRONE Tasteful look at the Charles and Diana marriage. Comedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) & Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm [4][7] 3pm, ends 31 Jan, £6-£25. b LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's mas-

terpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35. 195 mins. • MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7, 45pm. [4][7] 3pm. £5.75-£35.

● THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodumit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ● Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £9-£23. 135 mirs.

RAWBURY

THEATRE ROYAL Mother Goose. Christopher Biggins is Mother Goose. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 9 Jan. £7.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-328488)

GARDNER ARTS CENTRE The

Wind in The Willows Kenneth Grahame's enchanting tale of rivertife is adapted for the stage. Today 10.30am & 2.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £6.96-

£8.95, concs available. University of Sussex. Lewes Road (01273-

MARLOWE THEATRE Snow White

And The Seven Dwarfs Ex-Blue Peter presenter Tim Vincent gets fes-

tive. Today 2.30pm & 7pm. £8-£15, concs available. The Friars (01227-

CIVIC THEATRE Aladdin Traditional story of a washer woman's son

Compton Street (01323-412000)

WYCOMBE SWAN Jack and the Beanstalk Jean Boht, Michael El-

hick. Peter Duncan and Bonnie

CHIPPING NORTON

(01608-642350)

GUILDFORD

NEWTOWN

Road (01686-625007)

KEY THEATRE Dick Whittington

BARBICAN THEATRE Beauty and

the Beasties Updated version of the classic tale of love between the ugly

SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER THEATRE Goldilocks

and the Three Bears Frank Bruno, Karl Howman and Emily Symous in this star-studded panto. 17 Dec.

7.30pm, 18-19 Dec, 7pm. ends 14 Feb. £7.50-E17.50. concs avail-able. Commercial Road (01703-

STRATFORD-UPON -AVON ROYAL SHAKESPEARETHEATRE

The Winter's Tale Seasonal tale of obsessive jealousy directed by Gregory Doran. Today 1.30pm & 7.30pm, ends Feb 26. £7-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

SWAN THEATRE A Month in the

SWAN THEATRE A Month in the Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgeney's portrait of all-consuming sexual desire. Roright 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30. Troilus and Cressida Shakespeare's depiction of the human spirit undermined by bloody warfare. Today 1.30pm, ends Feb 20. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

DARTINGTON ARTS CENTRE

Skeeping Beauty Miracle Theatre's reworking of this classic tale. Tonight 7.30pm. £5, concs £3-£4, mar 23

seats £3.50, Dartington Haff (01803

tle Street (01752-267131)

PETERBOROUGH

PLYMOUTH

READING

CANTERBURY

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) ← Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35. 150 mlns.

PRISMT Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York: Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue. WC2 (07000-211221) ← Hollow/Fott Ct. Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mlns.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE OLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Story-teller. In rep, tonight 7pm, contin-

● LYTTELTON: Betrayal Pinter's defining work depicts a menage a trois and stars Imogen Stubbs and Douglas Hodge. In rep, tonight 7,30pm, continuing. 90 mins. COTTESLOE: Guiding Star

Jonathan Harvey's new play gives a tender account of the life of Hills-borough disaster survivor. In rep. tonight 7.30pm, continuing in rep. 150 mins. Officer & Lyttelton: £8-£27.50. Cottesloe: £12-£19. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/& Waterloo. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

I THE BARBICAN: The Tempest Adrian Noble directs Shakespeare's romance drama. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 13 Feb. 165 mins.

I THE PIT: The Two Gentlemen Of Verona Shakespeare's witty comedy is directed by Edward Hall. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends 28 Jan. Bar-bican Theatre: £5-26. The Pit: £12-£18.50. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/\(\Theta\) Barbi-

O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER HIL 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia London Palladkan Ar-gyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ↔ Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

3 THE SNOWMAN Award-winning production of Raymond Briggs' con-temporary classic. Sadler's Wells At The Peacock Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) & Holborn/Temple. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan, £7.50-£32.50.

Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musi-Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/ Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mins. THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Be-

**STARLIGHT EXPRESS** Andrew

linda Lang stars in Alan Ayekbourn's comedy, Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-344 4444) ⊕ Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 30 Jan, £15-£27.50, 140 mins. THE WEIR Conor McPherson's

drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane. WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, E5-E25. 90 mins.

I WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street. W1 (0171-447 5400) & Leic So/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £15-£35, 160 mlns.

O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name about on the nim of the same mane about two chidren who mistake an es-caped convict for Jesus. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836 2428) & Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

● THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street. WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 0171-344 4444) ⊕ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm. [3] 3pm. [7] 4pm. £8.50-£23.50. 110 mirs.

#### THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

BAC The King and I Steam Indus-try and BAC join forces for this Rodgers and Hammerstein classic. Rodgers and Hammerstein classic. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 5.30pm, ends 10 Jan. £12, concs £8, under 16s -£6. Lavender Hill. SW11 (0171-223 2223) BR: Clapham Junction.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE Little Makolm and His Struggle Against The Eurochs Ewan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David Halliwell's drama. Mon-Sat 8pm. mats Sat 3.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £9-£16, concs £6. Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301) & Swiss Cottage.

WORTHING CONNAUGHT THEATRE Aladdin Ex-Big Breakfast star Mark Little goes up the Beanstalk with Linda Nolan. Today 1.30pm & 7pm, ends 10 Jan, £8-£11.50, concs available. Palace Pam Gems provocative drama looks at the work of Stanishawa Przyb-szewica. Janet Suzman directs. Mon-Union Place (01903-235333)

## FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call

SAMUEL BECKETT'S Kramp's Last Tape, stars Edward
Petherbridge (right) as a melancholy old man, pouring
over tape recorded reflections of his life, made over a
30 year period. Time is Kramp's absurd trap, the past
talks, he talks back but there is no one to hear him.
This RSC Production into includes the West End
premiere of Beckind's Beauty, the ultra-short play
twith stage directions into the niece healt). Directed
by Edward Pethersings mini David Hunt.
Arts Theories for Members of Landon WC2
(6171-836-3334 sheets stars

CEL KERANTING MERISONE Stars her final recital this month.
It features the premiere of Releat, commissioned from
the British composed Graham Fittin (who will conduct
a pre-concert talk), as well as pieces by Ravel, Gershwin
and Rachmanines. Stoft, who regularly collaborates

and Rachasumose Stott, who regularly collaborates with distinguished artists such as The Lindsays, Yo-Yo-Ma and the Charistian and Skampa Quartets, has also been awarded the prestigious Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Arts et Lettres by the French government. Wigmore Hall, London WI (0171-935.2141) 19 Dec

#### **THEATRE EXHIBITIONS** COUNTRYWIDE

DE LA WARR PAVILION Picasso: Late Etchings Two series of etchings made in 1968 and 1969. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm, ends 3 Jan, free. MILL ARTS CENTRE The Complete Works Of William Shakespears (Abridged) Reduced Shakespears (01424-787949) Company fast-forwards through 37 plays. Tonight, 7.45pm. £8.50. cones £6.50. Spiceball Park (01295-

GALLERY Maquettes: Henry Moore Maquettes, working models and graphics exhibition marking the cen-

CARDIFF

LONDON Court Road/Holborn.

who falls in love with a beautiful Princess. Today 5.30pm, ends 9 Jan. £8.50-£10, concs £6.50-£7.50. (01245-606505) CHIPPING NORTON THEATRE ALI Baba and the 40 Thieves Panto taken from the Arabian Nights. Tonight 5pm & 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £7.75-£14.75. Spring Street

EASTBOURNE DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE CIN-DESIGN MUSEUM The Work Of Charles And Ray Earnes Over 500 objects by the leading 20th century design team. Mon-Fri 11.30amderella Eastbourne's Christmas treat starring Hinge and Bracket and Wendy Craig. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm. £7-£11, cones available.

YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Jack Tim Brooke-Taylor and Robert Powell join Are You Being Served's Trevor Bannister. Tonight 7.30pm. ends 3 Jan. £9.50-£17.50, concs NATIONAL GALLERY Luca Sigavailable, Millbrook (01483-440000)

Langford star. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 17 Jan. £8.50-£15,50. St. Mary's Street (01494-512000) THEATR HAFREN Beauty and the Beast Puppetry and music in this classic French fairy-tale. Today 10.15am & 7pm. £3.50. Llanidloes

Life? Or Theatre?: The Work of and his Fabulous Cat Thrilling adventure story full of comedy, music and magic. Today 2,15pm & 6,30pm, £5.75-£9.75, concs available. Embankment Road (01733-552439)

18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1. Ling Collection Forcelain from the Sing, Yuan, Ming and Quing dynas-ties. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-fopm, Fri 10am-6pm, ends 20 Dec. £3. concs £2.50, child (8-18) £1.

and the beautiful. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £7.50, concs £4.50. Cas-HALL Duane Hanson Life-like mod-els of peeple displayed in the public spaces. Mon-Sun 10am-11pm, ends 17 Jan, free. South Bank Centre, SE1 THE HEXAGON The Wizard of Oz Michaela Strachan goes over the rainbow Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 10 Jan. £10.50-£15, concs available. Queens Walk (0118-960 6060) (0171-960 4242) Waterloo

TATE GALLERY John Singer Sar-gent Comprehensive exhibition de-voted to the paintings of the 19th century artist. Mon-Sun 10am-5.40pm, ends 17 Jan. £6, concs £4. J.-topin, ends 17 Jan. 25, concs 24. Turner Prize 1998 Work by Chris Ofili, Cathy De Monchaux, Tacita Dean and Sam Taylor-Wood, Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 10 Jan.

5.50pm, ends 28 Feb, free. Milibank. SW1 (0171-887 8000) & Pimlico.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

18/ES40s/disabled/mems/4.30pm-18/E5405/disabled/mems/4.30pm-5.45pm, free (to museum). Grinling Gibbons And The Art Of Carving Celebrating the work of the 17th century woodcarver. Mon 12noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun 10am-5.45pm, ends 24 Jan. £5, concs £3. under 18/E540s/disabled/mems. 8441) O South Kensington.

ST IVES TATE GALLERY English Roots: Eric Cameron Thousands of layers of paint surrounding organic objects. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2.

#### CLASSICAL

BRIGHTON MUSEUM AND ART pary of his birth. Mon, Tue, Thur-Sat 10am-5pm. Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 10 Jan, free. Church Street (01273-290900)

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES Kalighat Icons 69 Kalighat water-colours charting the last days of the British occupation of India. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, ends 3 Jan. £4.25, concs £2.50, family £9.75 (to museum). Cathays Park (01222-397951)

BRITISH MUSEUM Mantegna to Rubens: Drawings from the Weld-Blundeli Collection Old Master drawings. Claude Lorrain Over 100 drawings by the 17th century artist. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 10 Jan. £1, concs 50p (incl entry to Mantegna To Rubens). Great Russell Street, WC1 (0171-636 1555) @ Russell Square/Tottenham COURTAULD GALLERY, COUR-

TAULD INSTITUTE Material Evidence: Drawings from the Courtauld Collection Including work by Constable, Rubens and Van Gogh, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun & Bank Hols 12noon-6pm (last adm, bank nois 12/1001-0pm (last aum, 5.15pm), ends 24 Jan. £4, concs £2, free 10am-2pm Mon (to gallery). Somerset House, Strand, WC2 (0171-873 2526) ⊕ Embankment.

6pm. Sat & Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 3 Jan. £5.25. concs £4, family £12 (to museum). Shad Thames. SE1 (0171-378 6055) & Tower Hill/DLR:

norelli in British Collections Draw-ings and paintings by the artist who influenced Raphael and Michelangelo. Mon & Tue, Thur-Sat 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-8pm, 5un 12noon-6pm, ends 31 Jan, free. Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-747 2885) & Charing Cross.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Picasso: Painter And Sculptor In Clay Exploring the ceramic works of the Oth century artist. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-8.30pm, ends 16 Dec. £7, OAP/UB40 £6. NUS £5, child 12-18 £2.50, child 8

Charlotte Salomon Powerful paintings made between 1940 and 1942. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fr 10am-8.30pm, ends 17 Jan. £5.50, UB40/OAP £4.50, NUS £4, child 12-100 Masterpleces Of Imperial Chinese Ceramics From The Au Bak

Burlington House. Piccadilly. W (0171-300 8000) & Green Park. BALLROOM, ROYAL FESTIVAL

In Celebration: The Art of the Country House Paintings and sculp-ture, including work by Canaletto, Stubbs and Hollein, Mon-Sun 10 am-

Aubrey Beardsley The illustrator's life and work explored in 200 draw-ings and prints. Mon 12noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun 10am-5.45pm, ends 10 Jan. £5, concs £3, under

Quolt Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marble sculpture linking St Ives with Montserrat in the West Indies. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50. concs £2. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

ST DAVID'S HALL BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Liewellyn An evening of popular classics. Tonight 7.30pm. £5. The Hayes (01222-878444)

> LONDON ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE Choir of King's College, Cambridge/Cleobury Music for Christmas from plainsong to Britten. Tonight 7.30pm: £10-£30. Smith Square. SWI (0171-222 1061)

> ROYAL ALBERT HALL The BT Christmas Concert Seasonal favourites from the Royal Choral Society introduced by Angela Rippon. Tonight 7.30pm. £7.50-£23.50. Kensington Gore. SW7 (0171-589 8212) & High Street Kensington.

> WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL Northern Sinfonia/Fearon Han-del's Messiah with the Sinfonia Chorus. Tonight 7.30pm. £6-£16. Westminster Storeys Gate, SW1 (0171-222 4163) Westminster.

#### **OPERA**

LONDON SADLER'S WELLS The Bartered Bride Smetana's classic opera in a new Royal Opera staging directed by Francesca Zambello. Tonight 7pm. £10-£60. Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-863 8000) & Angel.

#### DANCE

LONDON LONDON COLISEUM English National Ballet: The Nutcracker Derek Deane's new staging of favourite with Tchaikovsky's familiar score. Tonight 7,30pm (Oaks/Edur/Perego), mat today 2.30pm (Oaks/Edur/Klimentova). £2.50-£39.50. St. Martin's Lane, WCZ (0171-632 8300) € Leicester Square/Charing Cross.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE HALL Cheisea Bailet Presents The Nutoracker Chelsea Ballet perform Tchaikovsky's popular ballet in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital. Tonight 7,30pm. £6.50, concs and mat £4.50. Parkshot Centre Richmond. Surrey (0181-940 0170

ROUNDHOUSE Stomp Eight performers use anything they can get their hands on to create a witty rhythmic symphony. Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Sat & Sun 4pm, ends 27 Dec. £10-£25. Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-420 0000) @ Chalk Farm.

### LITERATURE

BOOKBINDING 1998 Examples from the 1998 Bookbinding Competition, alongside short-listed novels for the 1998 Booker Prize for Fiction. British Library Foyer Euston Square NW1 (0171-412 7760) & Euston/Kings Cross. Mon, Wed-Fri 9.30am-6pm, Tue 9.30am-8pm, Sat 9.30am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm, free.

JONATHAN GREEN, DICTIONARY OF SLANG The editor of Cassell Dictimary of Slang will talk about the origins of slang words and phrases.

Borders Oxford Street W1 (0171-287 1592) & Oxford Grous. Tonight 6.30pm, free.

#### **COMEDY**

ONFORD JONGLEURS OXFORD AT JONGLEURS OKFORD John Mann, David Fulton, Marcus Brigstocke. Tonight 7.45pm. Hythe Bridge Street (0845-6081818) £8.

THE COMEDY STORE The Best In Stand-Up with The Sunday Show's Paul Tonkinson, Ricky Grover, Lee Hurst, Junior Simpson, MC Tim Clark. Tonight 8pm, Ovendon Street. SWI (01426-914433/cc 0171-3444444) & Piccaille, Clerc. SVI 4444) ◆ Piccadilly Circus, £12. concs £7.

PHILL JUPITUS IN JED! STEADY GO AT LYRIC HAMMERSMITH The star of Never Mind the Buzzcocks gets in-spired by Star Wars. Tonight 8.30pm. King Street. W6 (0181-741 2311) O Hammersmith, £10 & £12.

#### **CLUBS**

LONDON 45 REVOLUTIONS LAUNCH PAR-TY AT THE VISE BAR Science fic-tion jazz from Charlie Dark (Attic Blues), Sahin Delleman and guests. Tonight 7pm-11pm, free. Brick Lane. E1 (0171-247 1231) • Aldgate East.

CLUB MONTUNO AT BAR TIEMPO Hot salsa, cumbia and merengue from DJs Luis Libres, Su-sana Mesa, Carol and Rolando, Tonight 7pm-2am. £4, free before 8,30pm. Pentonville Road. N1 (0171-837 5387) ⊕ Angel.

THE TRENCHES Look at some Christmas cards sent home from the trenches and try designing your own, imperial War Museum Lambeth Road SE1 (0171-416 5000/820 1683) © Lambeth North/Waterloo/Elephant & Castle. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm. (not 24-26 Dec), ends 3 Jan, Usual admission (£5, concs £4. child £2.50, family £13. free after 4.30pm).

TITANIC - OFFICIAL MOVIE TOUR: CHILDREN'S EVENT Themed ex-perience including many of the film's sets, props and costumes. Wembley Conference Centre Empire Way (0181-902 0902/900 1234) O Wembley Park. Mon-Sun 10am-7pm, last admission 6pm, ends 17 Jan. £12, child £8.

WEYMOUTH CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL Tastings, craft demonstrations, carol singing and a meeting with Santa in his fairytale grotto. Brewers Quay Hope Square (01305-777622) 10am-5.30pm. ends 24 Dec, free.

## MUSIC

BOURNEMOUTH THE CORRS The Irish easy listen-ing MOB quartet boast the biggest selling album of this year with Thik on Corners. Bournemouth International Centre Exeter Road (01202-456456) Tonight 8pm, phone for prices.

UB40 Midlands MOR reggae stars tour the new album of Jamaican classics, Labour of Love III. Brighton Centre Kings Road (0870-900 9100) Tonight 8pm, £17-£19.50. BRISTOL

MASSIVE ATTACK The revered Bristolian dub dance team bringing their awesome trip-rock machine.

Anson Rooms, Bristol University Queens Road (0117-954 5800) LONDON MARC ALMOND Brief residency for

the former Soft Cell torch singer. Albery Theatre St Martin's Lane WC2

(0171-369 1730) & Leicester Square. Tonight 8pm, £7.50-£27.50. THE CLINT BOON EXPERIENCE. THE MONSOON BASSOON, MAX TRACTOR The Inspirals' frantic or ganist songwriter soon was common bendy support from MB. Buil & Gate Kentish Town Road NW5 ust songwriter Boon with complex

ionight 8.30pm, £4. SAINT ETIENNE, DOT ALLISON, DJ KID LOCO The winsome pop pro-fessors return from international tessors return from international touring for a one-off Christmas show. The Forum Highgate Road NW5 (0171-344 0044) BR/O Kentish Town. Tonight 8pm, £10.

(0171-485 5358) ← Kentish Town.

OCTOPUS Scottish eight-piece add OC. IOPUS SCOURS eight-piece and psychedelic orchestrations to Brit-pop just too late to get the best from their deal with Food, playing here af-ter a hefty break. Water Rats Theatre Gray's Inn Road WC1 (0181-885 6488) & King's Cross. Tonight 8.30pm, £5. CULTURE CLUB, HUMAN LEAGUE.

## ABC An all star line-up, headed by George's soul pop phenomenon, go ingback to the 1980s. Wembley Are-na Empire Way. Wembley HA9 (0181-902 0902) © Wembley Park. Tonicht 7nm 522 50 Tonight 7pm, £22.50. MUSIC

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE LONDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR Outstanding London gospel choir. The Junction Clifton Road (01223-511511) Tonight 8pm, £12.

GEORGIE FAME R&B and swing vo-calist. as seen with Van Morrison. Jazz Cafe Parkway NWI (0171-916 6060) & Camden Town. Tonight 8.30pm. £15. £12.50 advance. SCOTT HAMILTON QUARTET Straightahead tenor sax smoothie. Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722) 9 Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 9pm, £12.50.

BOB KERR AND HIS WHOOPEE BAND - CHRISTMAS SHOW Seasonal antics from Spike Jones devotees. Pizza on the Park Knights-bridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) O Hyde Park Corner. Tonight 9.15pm & 11.15pm, £18, £16 adv.

GEORGE MELLY AND JOHN CHILION'S FEETWARMERS Veteran vocalist and showman in louche Christmas panto. Ronnie Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747)

Delicester Square. Tonight 9.30pm. phone for details.

MILTON KEYNES
JOHN AND CLEO'S CHRISTMAS
SHOW Leading lights of 1980s UK
jazz and guests. The Stables Stockwell Lane. Wavendon (01908583928) Tonight 8.15pm.
£11 50-£28.50.

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## SATELLITE TV, RADIO/21

# THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (976-99.8MHz FM ) .30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo's iffice Party. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radoliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles, 5.45 Newsbeat, 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Trade Update. 10.10 John Peel. 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 -6.30 Scott Mils.

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RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM ) 6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stew art. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 David Allan. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 The Al Read Show. 9.30 Love 40 -New Balls Please. 10.00 Girls and Guitars. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 -4.00 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM ) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week:

100 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. **4.00** Ensemble. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 in Tune.

7,30 Performance on 3. Conductor Yan Pascal Torteller, Mikhail Rudy (pino). Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No Rachmaninov: Symphony No 2 in

9,15 Postscript. Kevin Jackson unravels the stories behind classic works of European literature. 4: Jean-Jacques Rousseau: 'The Confessions'. With memoir, confession and autobiography now one of the most popular areas of modern nonfiction writing, Kevin Jackson looks at the pioneer of self-revelation, Jean-Jacques Rousseau. He examines contemporary public reaction to Rousseau's 'Confessions' and compares the themes and strategies of his groundbreaking work with modern examples of the form. See Pick 9.40 Beethoven. Piano Sonata in G

minor, Op 49 No 1. Stephen Kovace-

00 Music Restored. Chris de Souza introduces a second concert

6.00 The Perfect Mother (1996) (63949). 8.00 The Staircase (1996) (95765).

10.00 Miss Evers' Boys (1997) (19659). 12,00 The Perfect Mother (1996) (85388). 2,00 Hamlet (1996) (88656388).

4.05 Miss Evers' Boys (1997) (22351920).

On the Second Day of Christmas (1567) (53340). 7.30 Hollywood Buzz

10.00 The Gimmer Man (1996) (285611).

11.35 Stealing Beauty (1996) (701369).

1.35 Hotel Sorrento (1996) (526789).

6.00 Address Unknown (1996) (28185).

7.30 A Holiday for Love (1996) (76168630).

9.15 Gus (1976) (44824307). 11.00 Jules

Verne's 800 Leagues down the Amazon

pay through the Mists (1996) pay/5 3.00 Address Unknown (1996)

(95562). 5.00 A Holiday for Love (1996)

(68870104), **6.45** Gus (1976) (10491369).

in Defense of Murder (1997) (47456). **11.00** Young Guns II (1990) (545630). **12.45** 

Night Eyes 4 (1995) (707760). 2.25 Ban-

ished behind Bars (1995) (796876). 4.00 -

6.00 Five Desperate Hours (1997) (83470).

4.00 Captain Horatio Homblower (1951)

(1948) (9979253). **8.00** Dirty Mary, Crazy Larry (1974) (2384524). **9.30** Hollywood Hall of Fame (1822484). **10.00** The Tow-

ering Inferno (1974) (54363746). 12,45

(2703760). 2.40 A Star is Born (1954)

6.00 Alphaville (1965) (2039494), 8.00

Backbeat (1993) (41904833). **9.40** Too

White for Me (59699611), 11.00 Bandwag-on (1985) (6591475), 12.40 Walking and

Talking (1996) (9085586), 2.05 Ed's Next Move (1996) (8015692), 3.30 Pump Up the

Volume (1990) (9844708), **5.30 - 6.00** 

4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing World (8915814). 4.30 Walker's World (8911098). 5.00 Con-

nections 2 by James Burke (2371307).

5.30 Jurassica (8935678), 6.00 Animal

Doctor (8925291). 6.30 Alaska's Arctic

Wildlife (2485104). 7.30 Beyond 2000

(8912727). 8.00 Science Frontiers: The

The French Connection II (1975)

(22)8470). 5.30 Close().

Gunbuster (3415470).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

(7563291). 6.00 Blood on the Moon

iew (8611). **9.00** 

8.30 El News Week in Rev

SKY CINEMA

3.30 - 6.00 Roommetes (1995)

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(1996) (46727). See Pick of the Day.

#### PICK OF THE DAY

THANKS TO Nancy Mitford (right), middle-class parents have had to worry about their children saying "toilet" instead of "lavatory" and "pardon?" instead of "what?". According to Stafford on Humour (3.30pm R4), this nonsense was meant as a tease: despite suffering physical and emotional pain, which led to at least one suicide attempt, Mitford had an urge to

of Spanish music from the recent

Andalusia - Christian, Arabic and

10.45 Night Waves. As the Royal

Opera prepare for the opening of

Allen examines the political back-

explores different readings of

vet to receive the honour.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

(92.4-94.6MHz FM )

9.30 Diaries of Today. 9.45 Serial: Dear Bill.

Melvyn Bragg.

RADIO 4

ground to its first performance and

Pushkin's original story. Plus a letter

from Weimar as the city prepares to

take up the mantle of European City of Culture in 1999 - the smallest city

12.00 Composer of the Week: Elliott

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; In Our Time with

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

11.30 Christmas Shopping.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Hidden Treasures.

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

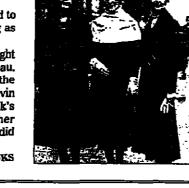
11.00 NEWS; Crossing Continents.

2.15 Afternoon Play: The Teahouse

amuse, and it never occurred to her to use her own suffering as material for literature

Postscript (9.15pm R3) tonight studies Jean-Jacques Rousseau, whose Confessions started the fashion for self-revelation. Kevin Jackson assesses the book's impact and wonders whether Rousseau was quite as candid as he claimed to be.

ROBERT HANKS



3.00 NEWS; Call You and Yours: day of Radio 3 Invitation Concerts at 0171 580 4444. the Royal Academy of Music in Lon-3.30 Stafford on Humour. See Pick don. This time the performers are of the Day. 3.45 With Great Pleasure. the ensemble Joglaresa, who are di-rected by Belinda Sykes in a rousing 4.00 NEWS; Law in Action. programme of music reflecting the 4.30 The Material World. three co-existing cultures of medieval 5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 The Worriers. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. their new production of Rimsky-Kor-7:15 Front Row. Mark Lawson with sakov's 'The Golden Cockerel'. Paul the arts programme, including the

pick of the year's video releases. 7.45 Under One Roof. With Jenni Murray and guests. Drama: 'Under One Roof' by Jenny Landreth, based on the original stories by Michele Hanson. As Christmas approaches, shopping, cooking and clubbing reach frantic proportions for Gillian, her daughter Chice and her mother Bernice. Nativity is in the air even for Molly the dog. With Janet Maw and Edna Dore. Director

Marilyn Imrie. Part 4. 8.00 NEWS; Life with Josie, In July 1996, Lin Russell and her daughter Megan were murdered as they walked home from school. This moving account describes how Lin's other daughter, Josie, who was badly injured in the attack, and her father Shaun have rebuilt their lives. It includes an audio diary made by Shaun to record his feelings as Josie underwent another operation. Narrated by Sian Pari Huws. 8.30 The Week in Westminster.

Boris Johnson of the Daily Telegraph

takes a look behind the scenes at

9.00 NEWS; Ground Control, A fourpart series in which Angela Lamont reports on the technology behind some of Britain's biggest civil engineering projects. 3: The Channel 9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn

Bragg, Melvyn Bragg and guest discuss ideas and events which have influenced our time. 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Soiderweb. By Penelope Lively, read by Stephanie Cole (9/10).

11.00 The Cradleys. By Mike Haskins and Griff Rhys Jones. Cornedy family the Cradleys continue their traumas in another exclusive from Copping Mount. With Simon Godley and Felicity Montagu. 11.15 MacLean: the Memorex Years. **11.30** New Radio. 12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Aphrodite. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

**RADIO 4 LW** 

(198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

**RADIO 5 LIVE** (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Time of My Life. Sportsmen and women relive the golden moments of their careers. Tonight, John Murray talks to David Steele, the batsman who came to England's rescue by defying the deadly pace attack of Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson during the 1975 Ashes series against Australia. Contributors include Tony Greig, lan Chappell, Geoff Cooke and Ian Wooldridge. 8-00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet and the team investigate the current

sporting issues. 9.00 Hoops. Weekly round-up of British basketball 9.30 Sportshop. The sports consumer programme, including sporting investigations and news of all the latest sporting gadgets. 10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick

Robinson Incl 10.30 Sport 11.00 News. 11.15 Financial World Tonight. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. CLASSIC FM

(1000-1019MHz FM ) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00

VERGEN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM ) 6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Janey Lee Grace. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

**WORLD SERVICE RADIO** (198kHz LW ) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Composer of the Month. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Focus on Faith. 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Assignment. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

**TALK RADIO** 6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Raebum. 4.00 Peter Deeley 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whale. 100 - 6.00 lan Collins.

(4875678), **8.30** The Bill (8181098), **9.00** 

#### INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

**CHESS** JON SPEELMAN

FOR THOSE with an Internet connection, Gary Kasparov will be online today from 1.30pm at http:// www.wireplay.co.uk/chess/ giving a simultaneous display to launch

the Internet-based Play Games Now! for BT's Wireplay. Peerless in simultaneous play, Kasparov ought to clean up against the three teams of journalists, players from the Mind Games network and juniors: Thomas Rendle, Gawain Jones, Murugan Thiruchelvan and David Howell; though there is the additional factor of the mouse.

At the weekend one of my Bundesliga colleagues, whose Internet Chess Club handle is "Flying-Piket", explained that he plays at the ICC (http://www.chessclub. com) on his laptop, which has a built-in mouse. I can hardly imagine how he can bear to do so when fine positional games are often spoilt by an horrendous finger- or rather, rodent-slip, leading to immediate defeat and a cheery Thx (as in "Thanks") from his rating-mad opponents.

I'm sure that Kasparov will have no problems in this department today. But his match with Vladimir Kramnik a fortnight ago was more stressful. In fact, quite rightly, they were paying on a sensory board: but another Bundesliga colleague expressed the somewhat mischeviously whimsical regret that

they hadn't been using mice... Although normal chess hardly requires strength, there is the slight physical component of moving the pieces, pressing the clock and writing down the moves. Normally quite unobtrusive, these can take centre-stage; at the Olympiad Boris Gulko, an orthodox Jew, 13 Qf3 Nxc3

moved his own pieces on a couple of religious holidays but required a surrogate to do the work of pressing the electric clock.

And under sufficient stress even the transfer of a chess piece can become problematical. I well remember an incident with Ljubomir Ljubojevic at London 1980 when, in time trouble, he picked up his queen and hurled it along the eighth rank - sadly not precisely where he intended it. After a magnificent row we agreed to a gentlemanly draw. The Romanian Florin Gheorghiu once lost on time in a won position against Bent Larsen when he simply couldn't command his hand to play the winning move.

Kasparov's opponent in todav's game from a six-board clock simultaneous against the Argentine national team last year is a 2,565rated grandmaster, but he was still slaughtered, Already worse, Spangenberg compounded matters with 15... Bd6? losing two tempi since if 16... Bxh2+ 17 Kh1 Bd7 18 g3 Bc6 19 d5 wins a piece. At the end, Black is losing a whole rook.

#### White: Gary Kasparov Black: Hugo Spangenberg

Queen's Gambit Accepted 1 d4 d5 14 bxc3 Oc7 2 Nf3 Nf6 15 c4 Bd6? 3 c4 dxc4 16 c5! Be7

4 e3 e6 17 Bf4 Qd7 5 Bxc4 c5 18 Rac1 Qc6 6 0-0 a6 19 d5 exd5 7 Bb3 Nc6 20 Bxd5 Qg6 8 Nc3 Be7 21 h3 Ra7 9 Qe2 0-0 22 Qe3 Bf6

10 Rd1 cxd4 23 c6 bxc6 11 Nxd4 Nxd4 24 Be4 Bf5 12 exd4 Nd5 25 Bxf5 Qxf5 26 g4 1-0

#### POKER DAVID SPANIER

AS 1998 ends, it is clear that the gambling genie is out of the bottle and will not go back in. That is evident from the resounding victory at the ballot box by the pro-gambling forces in the recent American elections. Missouri approved boat casinos, Californians voted to expand Indian casinos, in South Carolina and Alabama voters replaced antilottery Republican governors with

pro-lottery Democrats. At the same time, the megabucks casinos in Las Vegas suffered a setback. The Indian tribes in California won the right to run slot get their way, as subject to legal wrangling they probably will, it will cost Las Vegas an estimated \$400m a year in lost revenue. This, too, was a vote for more gambling.

On the political front, the gambling lobby in the US looks like coming out well on top, in the hearings now being held by the National Gambling Impact Commission. This somewhat unwieldy body was dreamed up by the opponents of gambling, led by Rev Tom Grey, who castigates it in fire and brimstone as the distraction of the devil

The pro-lobby is led by Frank Fahrenkopf, a former Republican fundraiser. To hear him tell it, gambling brings more benefits to soci-

ety than motherhood and apple pie combined. As industry spokesman he has a salary of of \$800,000 a year. He can produce more pro-gaming statistics, it seems, than there are stars in the heavens. Rev Grey talks a good game but

in reality knows he hasn't got a prayer against the massed forces of Nevada. He is now talking of merely "reducing the spread" of commercial gaming.

The most that the commission will do, observers believe, is to put forward a series of mild recommendations, which the gambling industry can easily live with. One proposal may be to provide help for gamblers who have a "problem".

There are no reliable figures available for problem gambling. which is usually put at around 2-3 per cent of players. Who better to help these unfortunate people, by funding research and counselling, than the very casinos or lotteries that put temptation in their way in the first place? Especially as this would demonstrate a proper sense of civic responsibility.

American casinos have no intention of suffering the fate of the tobacco industry. Now they have the popular vote as well as the big bucks to ensure that their future will be "win, win, win".

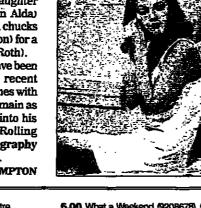
### SATELLITE AND CABLE

#### PICK OF THE DAY

EVEN AFTER dozens of movies, Barrymore, right), the daughter aker Everyone Says I Love You (8pm Sky Premier) is a tribute to the great Hollywood singing extravaganzas of the 1930s. It might not be a complete success, but at least he tried something different. In a plot interweaving several different strands, he stars as a married man romancing Julia Roberts in Venice, Meanwhile, Skylar (Drew

Woody Allen is refreshingly still of upper-crust Bob (Alan Alda) able to experiment as a film- and Steffi (Goldie Hawn), chucks her fiance (Edward Norton) for a dangerous ex-con (Tim Roth). Mick Jagger may not have been

all that pleased about recent press coverage, but it comes with the territory when you remain as big a star as he is. Now into his fifties, the evergreen Rolling Stone is profiled in Biography (9pm History Channel). JAMES RAMPTON



Science of Star Trek (5615982), 9.00 Wheels and Keels: The Liners (5635746). 10.00 Intensive Care: The Problem with Men (5638833). 11.00 Forensic Detective (5137229). 12.00 Empire of the East (1396147), 1.00 Connections 2 by James Burke (9828437). 1L30 Ancient Warriors 7.00 The Simpsons (95253). 7.30 The Chris Evans Breaklast Show (36104). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (80659). 9.00 Guilty!

(85949). **10.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (26052). **11.00** The Oprah Wintrey Show (23036). 12.00 Jenny Jones (8608369). 12.55 The Special K Collection (53712104). 1.00 Days of Our Lives (9789678). **1.55** The Special K Collection (77024291). **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (6508185). 2.55 The Special K Collection (2507340), 3.00 Jenny Jones (7475562), 3.55 The Special K Collection (8045388). 4.00 Guilty! (26475). 5.00 Sta Deep Space Nine (4659), 6.00 Married with Children (2920). 6.30 Dream Te (3272), **7.00** The Simpsons (5388), **7.30** Real TV (9456), **8.00** Friends (4036), **8.30** Friends (3543). 9.00 Friends (22659). 9.30 Friends (20765), 10.00 E R (32524), 11.00 Dream Team (27104), 11.30 Star Trek (91746), 12.30 Renegade (53741). 130 - 7.00 Long Play (4642499).

(9167031), 2.00 Close().

SKY SPORTS 1 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (8281307). 745 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun

(504475). 8.15 Sky Sports Centre (8432098). **8.30** Racing News (58272). **9.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (49524). **9.30** Pool (28272), 10.30 Ringside (99524). 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (69388), 12.30 Ford Football Special Manchester United vs Chelsea (80388), 2.00 Unbelievable Sports (4814), 2.30 Ringside (88562), 4.00 Pool (55901). 5.00 World Wrestling Fe ation Superstars (7901). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (2562). **6.30** Football League Review (3814). **7.00** What a Weekend (8630). 7.30 Futbol Mundai (9098). 8.00 Spanish Football (91291). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (767663). 10.15 What a Weekend (250077) 10.45 Trans World Sport (196630). 11.45 Sky Soorts Centre (526663), 12.00 Foot-Sky Spots Centre (73895). 12.30 What a Weekend (35147). 1.00 Futbol Mundal (35383). 1.30 Trans World Sport (76925). 2.30 Spanish Football (75296). 4.30 Sky Sports Centre (21273296). 4.45 Close().

**SKY SPORTS 2** 7.00 Aerobics · Oz Style (3436814). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (5755104), 7.45 Racing News (8909562), 8.15 Unbelievable Sports (6127017). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (6440494). **9.00** Fish TV Fishing Texas (2393340). 9.30 Fish TV Americans Out-doors (3465272). 10.00 Golf Extra (3485036). **12.00** Tennis (3488123). **1.00** Watersports World (3464543). **2.00** Figure Skating (6816678). 4.00 Survival of the Pittest (9281901), 4,30 Unbelievable Sports (9287185), 5,00 Football League Review (8101299). 5.30 Futbol Mundial (9201765).

6.00 What a Weekend (9208678), 6.30 The Rugby Club (6779098). 7.30 Pool (1934814), 10.30 Tight Lines (8519543). **11.30** The Rugby Club (9915982). **12.30** Ice Hockey (2926031). **3.00** Sky Sports Centre (900)6532). 3.15 Close(). SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (48076307). **1.00** Fish TV Fishing Texas (94234340). **1.30** Fish TV Americana Outdoors (48056543). 2.00 Olympics: Golden Moments (67799543). 2.30 Sky Sports Classics - Gold Cricket Brian Lara (87266291). 3.30 Table Tennis (40235307). 4.30 Watersports World (14072949). 5.30 Unibelievable Sports (93831307), **6.00** Survival of the Fittest (93821920), 6,30 Tight Lines (87241982) 7.30 Ice Hockey (79055659). 10.00 Bob-by Charlton's Football Scrapbook (56871949), **11.30** Close().

EUROSPORT 7.30 Biathlon (81678). 9.00 Biathlon (41104). 10.30 Alpine Skling (63104). 11.00 Football European Championship Legends (58746). 12.00 Motors Magazine (92104). 1.00 Curling (35307). 3.00 Biathlon (12253), 4.30 Olympic Magazine (6765), 5.00 Footbell (75949), 7.00 Footbell (40727) 9.00 Equastrianism (47982). 10.30 Boxing (59369). 11.30 Motors Mag-azine (33746). 12.30 Close(). UK GOLD

7.00 Crossroads (9193887). 7.30 Neighbours (4451901). 7.55 EastEnders

The Bill (8105678). 9,30 Middlemarch (9263272). **10.30** Angels (8194562). **11.00** Dallas (3508272). **11.55** Neighbours (32957123). **12.25** EastEnders (2381272). 1.00 Middlemarch (7454727), 2.00 Da (661)611), 2.55 The Bill (2073562), 3.25 The Bill (6280562), 3.55 EastEnders (9780938). 4.30 Angels (8913456). 5.00 ures Great and Small (2352272) 6.00 Due South (7467291). 7.00 The Cornedy Alternative: May To December (2861291). 7.40 The Cornedy Alternative: I Ain't Half Hot, Mum (4875663). 8.20 The Comedy Alternative: Dad's Army (7361746). 9.00 Fawity Towers (5054630). 9.40 Film: Movies with Muscle: King Kong (1976) (53793543) 1245 The Rill (5260944). 12.45 The Bill (5269215). 1.15 Spender (4707470), 2.10 100 Years of Horror (44362654). 2.40 - 7.00 Shopping with Screenshop (42888296). LIVERG 6.00 Thy Living (9583291). 9.00 The

Roseanne Show (4383017), 9.50 The Jerry Springer Show (5121920), 10.40 Michael Cole (3349678), **1L30** Brookside (1269630). 12.00 Special Babies (3320611). 12.30 Rescue 911 (1800272), 1.00 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1618475). 1.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (7748814). 2.05 Rolonda (4118982), 2.55 Living It Up! (4856494), 3.55 The Jerry Springer Show (9824949), 4.45 Tempesti (7868475), 5.35 Can'i Cook, Won't Cook (8145814), 6.10 The Jerry Springer Show (6865611). 7.00 Rescue 911 (7559098), 7.30 Beyond Belief Fact or Fiction (1128814). 8.00 Ally McBeal (9978524). 9.00 Film: Her Costly Affair (1996) (9971611). 11.00 The Spicy Sex Files (1695524). 12.00 Close().

9.00 A Man for All Seasons (1988) (388806ti). **11.30** Cry Terror (1958) (98994098). 1.15 The Best House in London (1968) (16202895). 3.00 The Haunting (1963) (14963708). 5.00 Close().

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (6272). 7.30 Desmond's (3140). 8.00 Roseanne (5920). 8.30 Just Shoot Me (1727). 9.00 Cybil (59727). 9.30 Seinfeld (10497). 10.00 Frasier (58659). 10.30 Cheers (77307). 11.00 Festival of Fun I (54272). 11.30 Larry Sanders (16272). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (44012). 1.00 Taxl (33925). 1.30 The Critic (71673). 2.00 Dr Katz (41505). 2.30 Soap (20012). 3.00 Hooperman (53789). 3.30 Nightstand (44692). 4.00 Close.

# REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 LONDON except: 6.30 Newsline 6.30 (956). BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: 12.25 Padraig Post Special (Postman Pat Special) (9122253). 8.00 News (456). 6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather (956). BBC1 WALES AS BBC1 LONDON & SE except:

ANGLIA n except: 12.20 Angla News (6805475). **LOO** Dinosaurs (87298291) 2.00 Christmas Home in the Country (5158814) 3.20 Anglia News (8831291) 5.10 Shortland Street 716678). **6.00** Home and Away 553369), 6.25 Anglia News (56) (553369) 6.25 Anglia News (561383). 6.55 What's On (516123). 10.00 News (50494). 10.30 Anglia News (813017). 10.40 Ray Davies - Visions of England (327889). 11.20 Anatomy of Disaster (210456). 12.15 Tales from the Darkside (8270470). 12.40 Highlander (4206673). 1.34796 (8664031). 2.35 cyber.cafe (564/534). 3.05 CD UK (9960079). 4.00 Trata (4642741). 4.50 Soundtrax (47654)60). 5.00 ITV Nightscreen (68654).

Andrew arter programme

As Cariton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (8805475). 12.30 ITN News; Weather (75291). 1.00 Echo Point (89878). 3.20 Central News (8831291). 5.10 Shortland Street (6716678). 6.00 Home and Away (553369). 6.25 Central News and Weather (561388). 6.55 Lifeline (516123), 10.30 Central News and Weather (813017), 10.40 Film; Best Friends (58924524). **4.20** Jobfinder (3334447). **5.20** Asian Eye (2157383).

HTY WALES As Cariton except: 10.45 This Morning (328562). 12.15 HTV News (3589611). 100 Shortland Street (89678), 1.30 Shortland Street (50855562), 1.35 Home and Away (97298291), 2.00 Christmas and Away (97298291), 2.00 Christmas Home in the Country (5158814), 3.20 HTV News (8831291), 5.10 A Country Practice (67(5678), 6.00 Home and Away (5715578). **6.00** Home and Away (553369). **6.25** Wales Toright (767291). **10.30** HTV News (804369). **10.45** Cettic Radicals (548274). **11.15** HTV News 98 (889299). **12.15** Film: May Day (8270470). **12.40** Highlander (4206873). **1.35** ITV at V98 (8684031). **2.35** cyber.cafe (5647234). **3.05** CD UK (9960079). **4.00** Tishna (8642721). **4.50** Sousnotirax irisha (4642741). 4.50 Soundirax (47654160). 5.00 (TV Nightscreen (68654).

As HTV Wales except: 6.25 HTV West Weather (187475), 6.30 The West Tonight (104), 10.45 HTV 30 (549274), 11.15 Film: The Man with the X-Ray Eyes (907475). MERIDIAN

As Cariton except: 10.15 This Morning (328562). 12.15 Meridian News Headines and Regional Weather (3599611). 1.00 Shortland Street (8507123). 1.35 Home and Away (97298291). 2.00 Christ-mas Home in the Country (5158814). 3.20 Meridian News (8831291). 5.40 Home and Away (6716678). 5.37 Crimestoppers Away (6716678), 5.37 Crimestoppers (289272). 6.00 Meridian Toright. Regional News Magazine (524). 6.30 Pural Rides (104), 10.30 Meridian News (804369). 10.45 Film: Georgy Girl\* (81776814). 12.40 Highlander. Fantasy drama series (4206673). 1.35 ITV at VB8 (8564031). 2.35 cyber.cafe (5647234). 3.05 CD UK (9960079). 4.00 Trisha (4642741). 4.50 Soundtrax (47654160). 5.00 ITV Nightscreen (2171963). 5.05 Freescreen (715789).

WESTCOUNTRY As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (28562), 12.15 Westpountry News (359961), 12.27 Christmas Stories (6813494). 1.00 Emmerdale (89678). 3.20 Westcountry News (8831291). 6.00 Westcountry Live (50982). 10.30 Westcountry News (804369). 10.45 Film: Psycho IV: the Beginning (61776814). 12.40 High-lander (4206673). 1.35 ITV at V98 (8664031). 2.35 cyber.cate (5647234). 3.05 CD UK (9960079). 4.00 Trishs (4642741). 4.50 Soundtrax (47654160), 5.00 ITV Ministeren (68664). 5.00 ITV Nightscreen (68654). YORKSHIRE

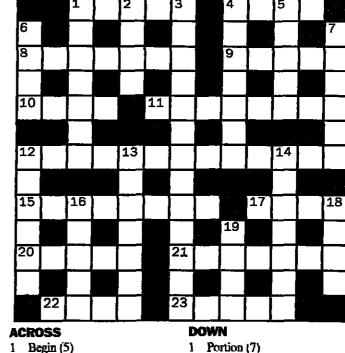
As Cariton except: 10.15 This Morning (328562), 12.15 Calendar News and Weather (3599611), 1.00 Home and Away (58030765), 1.25 Christmas Home in the Country (5729901). 2.10 Emmerdale (5372494), 2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (868720). 3.10 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (8642307). 3.20 Calendar Naws Headines (8831291). 5.40 News; Weather (412272). 5.55 Calendar (156036), 6.30 Tonight (104), 10.30 Cal-(154): 10.30 foright (154): 10.30 Cal-endar News and Weather (813017): 10.40 Master Class (938765); 11.10 New Visions (269272): 11.40 The Cosby Mysteries (557524); 4.20 Jobfinder (2365215).

TYNE TEES As Yorkshire except: 12.15 North East News Headines and Regional Weather (3599611). 3.20 North East

News Headlines and Region al Weather (8831291). **5.55** North East Weather (209036). **6.00** North East Tonight (50982). **10.30** North East News and Weather (813017). 10.40 Check One, Two (524901). 11.40 Around the House (607678). **12.40** Tales from the Crypt (3651383). SAC

As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Judge Joe Brown (46407920). 12.30 Sesame Street (43901497). 1.00 Planed Plant: Migmes a Pingu (46127746). 1.30 Film: The Silencers (10581920). 4.30 Ricki Lake (11374562), **5.00** Planed Plant: Uned 5 (16970098), **5.30** Countdown (11365814). 6.00 Newyddion (19966678). 6.10 Heno (80696833). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (33350307), 7.25 Penblwydd Hapus (72928119), 8.00 Meiblon Glandwr (16969982), 8,30 Newyddion (16968017). 9,00 The Body Story (56821253). 9,35 Friends (70028475). 10,00 The Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star (17500543). 10.45 Bob and Margaret (71847036). 11.15 Whose Line is it Anyway? (71844949). **11.45** Fising Damp (71836920). **12.15** Dispatches (79526321) 12.45 The Cornedy Lab (79525692). 1.15 Joe Public (79522505). 1.45 Close.

#### CONCISE CROSSWORD No.3796 Thursday 17 December



Begin (5) Merit (4)

Jazz style (7) Aggressive behaviour (5) 10 Submissive (4) 11 Part of neck of mutton (5-3)

12 Giving baby nourishment (6-15 Prove counterproductive (8)

17 Ray (4) 20 Slow movement (5)

21 Shellfish (7) 22 Structure covering building

23 Charge to an account (5)

Form of public transport (4) Fast food item (3.3) Talk incoherently (6) 13 Start of space mission (4-3) 14 Arctic vessel (3-4) 16 Ship's load (5) 18 Satisfy (4)

19 Cutting remark (4)

From that time (13)

Parched (4)

Issue (7)

Rascal (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Peppered, 5 Hams (Pappadoms), 9 Roost, 10 Terrine, 11 Exhilarate, 14 Victoria Cross, 16 Art Nouveau, 20 Genesis, 21 Copra, 22 Eden, 23 Estrange, DOWN: 1 Perceive, 2 Prophecy, 3 Extol, 4 Extortionists, 6 Acid, 7 Seem, 8 Critic, 12 Homespun, 13 Osculate, 15 Onrush, 17 Ulcer, 18 Ogle, 19 Once.

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# MATTHEW SWEET TELEVISION REVIEW

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8.00 Business Breakfast (14949). 7.00 News (T) (84123).
9.00 Kliroy (S) (T) (5355272). 9.40 Style Challenge (S) (101524). 10.05 City Hospital (S) (T) (7887901). 10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (4529272). 11.00 Good Living (S) (4548949). 11.25 Cent Cook, Worth Cook (S) (T) (4549039). 11.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (14549039). 12.00 Pass the Buck (S) (9143746). 12.25 Going for a Song (S) (912253). 12.50 The Weather Show (S) (T) (73997475). 1.00 News; Weather (T) (54982). 1.30 Regional News and Weather (S) (T) (4594982).

**Neighbours.** It's Bill's first day in his new job. Madge and Haroid are worried that the pub may become a nightclub (S) (T) (277036).

**6.00 News; Weather** (T) (456)

Regional News. And weather (T) (956)

7.00 Watchdog. Anne Robinson and Alice Beer name and shame this week's baddles in their war against faulty goods and bad service (S) (T) (9678).

amily shoom. Bill unwisely trusts Ben to buy the for Christmas (R) (S) (7833).

10.00 They Think It's All Over. Nick Hancock, David Gower, Gary Lineker and Rory McGrath are joined by Julian Clary for more sporting mayhem (S) (T) (32088)

Cilve Anderson Ali Talk. Frank Skinner and Björk try to get a word in edgeways (S) (41746).

11.00 Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Nottingham, with questions for Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Mo Mowlam, Kenneth Clarke, Bob Ayling and Simon Heffer (S) (T) (770302).

**1.35 Joins BBC News 24** (10082012). To 6am

Remote Contro

COMEDY OF THE DAY

not working?

BBC

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (R) (S) (9083253). 3.45 Fireman Sam (R) (6254562). 3.55 Rugrats (R) (S) (T) (3369901). 4.20 Mr Wyml (S) (T) (1214494). 4.35 Smart (S) (T) (9656833). 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (2283611).

7.30 EastEnders. Phil and Grant reach breaking-point over Jamie, and Ricky and Teresa go into business together (S) (T) (920).

8.00 Animal Hospitel. Foll Hards introduces more tales from the RSPCAs Harmsworth Hospital in Hollowsy. This week, a colle dog needs emercency treatment after an a colle dog needs emergency treatment after an unfortunate encounter with some iron railings (S) (T) (5098)

9.00 News; Regional News, Weather (T) (3123).

9.30 Dinnerladies. with Bren being (S) (T) (77859). **Priadles.** The disappointing series concludes ren being left to run the canteen single-handed

12.05 1311/1 The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid (Philip Kaufman 1972). Off-beat western about a bank robbery carried out by the Jesse James gang in the 1880s which turned into a disaster for the outlaws

Replacements, all makes, all models from £19.99

THIRD ROCK FROM THE SUN (9pm BBC2, ngh) If you're not completely looked on this joy of a programme, kick you'rself now as it's the last in the current series. The real strength of the show — apart from the superb acting — is the way it takes a new look at familiar subjects. Think of last week's spectacle of Sally trying to fall in love with Don by reading romance novels and acting out the plots. This week Dick docides the family needs a bonding session and

Remotes Direct

BBC2

6.10 Sexual Selection and Speciation (4353185) 6.35 Lessons from Kerala (8482388).

7.00 Children's BBC: Adventures of the Garden Fairles (6163901). 7.05 Teletubbles (5164543). 7.30 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (8096123). 7.55 Bitue Peter (1019017). 8.20 Funky Phantom (4907291). 8.45 Fiddley Footle Bird (3293253). 8.45 Tales of the Tooth Fairles (8935340). 9.00 Adventures of the Garden Fairles (4457301). 9.05 Phil Silvers Show (7946369). 9.30 Great Romances of the 20th Century (84949). 10.00 Teletubbles (30814).

10.30 1311(1) 49th Parallel (Michael Powell 1941 UK). Classic Second World War drama (T) (79307).

12.30 Working Lunch (88765). 1.00 Flddley Foodle Bird (21649494). 1.10 Aris and Crafts Hour (5681140). 2.10 Match of the Day Greats (86195104). 2.40 News, Local News; Weather (6098185). 2.45 Westminster (2679456). 3.25 News; Local News; Weather (8843036). 3.30 Gardeners' World (814). 4.00 Change That (9018746). 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (9019833). 4.55 Lowri (7881659). 5.30 Today's the Day. (185).

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. O'Brien, Garak, Nog and a salvage team are stranded on a supposedly abandoned Cardassian space station (S) (T) (586253).

8.45 Silders. Another week, enother parallel universe. This week the unconventional travellers have to contend with killer snakes and drug-runners (S) (T) (809901).

7.30

8.00 Beat Route. Jools Holland visits the Lebanon and meets girl band the Four Cats (S) (T) (6340).

8.30 **Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson, Tiff Needell, Quentin Wilson and Vicki Butter-Henderson are on the hunt for their car of the year (S) (T) (5475).

9.25 FIDING Science at War. The US is working technology it believes will give it military supremend, sea, in the air and even in space. See Documentary of the Day below (S) (T) (567920). The US is working on the it military supremacy on

10.20 Newsnight. With Gordon Brewer (T) (790017). 10.15 Trade Secrets. Carpenters share some tricks of the trade (R) (S) (T) (820104).

Late Review (S) (193340). 12.00 Despatch Box (S) (68925). 12.30 BBC Learning Zone: the Leisure Site:

3.25

First Sight. Nicky Campbell presents a guide to surviving the last-minute Christmas-shopping frenzy on the heaving streets of London (562).

9.00 GIOIB Third Rock from the Sum. Dick decides that the allens should go on a camping trip. See Comedy of the Day below (S) (T) (634949). 900 **Picking up the Pieces.** The paramedics put their lives in danger when they're called to a prison riot, in this last tranche of the eight-part drama series (S) (T) (4104).

Weather (T) (50494)

10.30

The Amityville Horror (Stuart Rosenberg 3). A family calls in the local priest when the nd walls of their new house start oczing slime od. You'd have thought they'd have just sued the agent (56924524). n Tonight. Regional news update for the and the South-east (T) (813017).

12.40 Highla 2.05 N Hander (R) (3648673). 1.40 Pirate TV (9652166).
Not Fade Away (S) (2231215). 3.05 Box Office ica (R) (49668470). 3.30 The Haunted Fishtank (2296). 3.55 Recollections (R) (58073789). 4.20 lightscreen (2365215). 5.30 ITN Morning News (8). To 6am.

en's ITV: Wizadora (R) (8821814), 3.35 Kloper 12123), 3.45 The Adventures of Paddington Bear 19630), 3.55 Cow and Chicken (3371017), 4.15 noldl (S) (T) (7292122), 4.40 Worst Witch (T)

5.40 News; Home

6.00 Londo for the c

6.30 Videot and gos **tech.** Mergherita Taylor has the latest charts sslp from the music world (S) (104).

Andy m rdale. Maddy learns the truth about Butch. akes a shocking discovery (S) (T) (4746).

7.30 We Can Work It Out. More consumer campaigning with Judy Finnigan. This week, the team investigates seasonal deals on the high street (388).

8.00 The Bill. One woman is dead and another two are missing, so Rawton poses as a lonely heart in order track down their killer (T) (4340).

9.00 The Body Story. A thoughtful study of death, presented with the help of computer animation and endoscopic cameras (T) (6833).

9.30 Dispatches. David Jessel travels the world to uncover new evidence against the two Libyans accused of the Lockerble bombing (60369).

10.00 FILE Exclusive (Alan Metzger 1992 US). All you need to know is that Suzanne Somers is playing the ace TV reporter on the hunt for a multiple killer. Yes, Suzanne Somers from Three's Company. About as convincing as Julia Roberts playing a lawyer and hindered by a less-than-average script (498630).

ITV (1123833). 9.25 Trisha (S) (T) (2854524). 10.15 s Morning (T) (52741456). 12.20 Your Shout 05475). 12.30 News; Weather (T) (75291). 1.00 Idon Today (T) (89678). 1.30 Christmas Home in the Intry (8289475). 2.15 Home and Away (S) (T) (2659). 2.45 Date's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (630). 3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (8841878). 3.20 Idon Today (T) (8831291).

Weather (T) (143630). and Away (S) (T) (6716678).

in Tonight. Regional news and weather update capital and the South-east (T) (524).

7.00

7.50

Artranspennine98. "White Knight and the Table of Longing Hearts", an installation by Jan Erik Andersson in Wakefield (T) (546659).

The Italian Kitchen. Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray of the River Café cook cannellini bean and parsley soup and chestnut and pumpkin potage (T) (1036).

**Personal Services.** Sandra Hewitt, who owns a launderette, talks about her customers with her pals Old Betty and ironing Betty (T) (4253).

**1.30** 4 Later: **0z** (656524), **12.55** 4 Later: Vids (5738498). **1.30** 4 Later: Oozat (7113470), **1.35** 4 Later: For the Love of Faith (8662673), **2.35** 4 Later: Kiss Kiss Bang Bang (R) (2983234), **3.25** 4 Later: Death Train (R) (6546166), **4.30** Nothing but the Truth (R) (S) (T) (4418215), **5.25** Right to Reply (R) (T) (7122079), **5.55** Sesame Street (R) (S) (9104673), To 7am.

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11.30 Powerhouse (T) (4098). 12.00 Sesame Street (57307). 12.30 Bewliched (R) (T) (73833). 1.00 Judge Joe Brown (8505765). 1.35 Roots to Success 9.35

**BILLY That Lady** (Terence Young 1955 UK). Olivia de Havilland looks uncomfortable in this passionless romance about 18th-century Spanish noblewoman Ande Mendoza (S) (T) (43058814).

The Big Breakfast (S) (T) (77833), 9.00 Cosby (T) (9564456).

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<u>3.30</u> 1.55 1311/1 The Left Hand of God (Edward Dmytryk 1955 US). A pilot is caught in China effer the Second World War (S) (T) (87958678).

5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow. Children in Guy's Hospital, London, are cheered by visiting animals (T) (253). Callectors' Lot (T) (982). 4.00 Fifteen to One - the Big Winners (R) (807). 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (9640272). 4.55 Ricki Lake (S) (T) (7976727).

Roseanne. When her mum moves into an old-people's home, Roseanne starts to feel her age (R) (T) (494).

6,00

6.30 Hollyoaks. Cirdy has a hot date, but Mandy finds out that she has lied about Holly. Ruth finally agrees to speak to Kurt (T) (746). 6,30

Channel 4 News; Weather, Including headlines at 7.30pm (S) (T) (353307). 7.00

5 News Update including First on Five (S) (T) (1538982).

8.00 Wing and a Prayer. The end is nigh for the barristers of Salthouse Chambers, a fact for which we must all be grateful. Not death, you understand, just the end of the series. Amanda has to decide whether to support Arlington (H) (S) (T) (8633017). 7.30 Wild at Horne. "Psychologist Jenny Ron offers a unique insight into the world of the Canadian timber wolf." So now they need therapy, too? (S) (T) (2489369).

9.00 IIII Under Investigation (Kevin Meyer 1993 US). An incoherent muddle of mismatched detectives, femmes fatales and victous murders. Police veteran Ksaton and his rookie partner Chandler meet an art student who suspects her missing teacher is the killer. But the student is not all she seems. Edited for sex and violence, so there is not even that compensation (T)

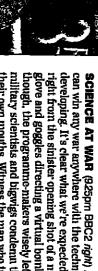
10.50 Sex and Shopping. Gay pornography is a booming business, happily for Mike Donner who makes "quality" hard-core porn, and Rod Barry and Todd Haynes who are gay porn stars (S) (3772456).

TELEVISION GUIDE BY CLAIRE GERVAT

The Jack Docherty Show (5) (2488949). 12.00 Live and Dangerous (S) (8634031). 12.40 Live and Dangerous (S) (12015741). 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6410465). 5.30 t00 Per Cent (R) (S) (7295654). To 6am.



SCIENCE AT WAR (9.25pm BBC2 right) America believes it can win any war anywhere with the technology it is now developing. It's clear what we're expected to think of this right from the sinister opening shot of a man with a black glove and goggles directing a virtual bombing raid. After that, though, the programme-makers wisely let the assembled US military scientists and bigwigs condemn themselves out of their own mouths. Witness the man who talks of destroying a tank's "components" when what he means is the crew inside. However, technology isn't everything, as footage of a hungled exercise shows. We're safe for a while yet, I think.







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(R) (S) (T) (6041291), **7.30** Milkshakel (S) (2680291), **7.35** Wimzle's House (R) (S) (6252494), **8.00** Havakazoo (R) (S) (7663746), **8.30** Dappledown Farm (7662017), **9.00** The Antiques Hunter (R) (S) (T) (3296456), **9.25** Russell Grant's Postcards (R) (4121814), **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (8387543), **10.20** Sunset Beach (S) (T) (3097235), **11.10** Lecza (R) (S) (8539475), **12.00** 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (7668833), **12.30** Family Affairs (S) (T) (2287543), **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (6040562), **1.30** Sons and Daughters (2286644), **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (1567494), **2.30** Good Alternoon (S) (2231369).

3.30 IIIM The Defector (Rapul Lévy 1966 Ger/Fr). It's Montgomery Clift, honey. Sadly, his last film isn't his best – in fact, it's a ho-hum Cold War spy thriller, and eminently missable (T) (7689456).

5.20 The Roseanne Show. More chat (91633B8).

6.00 100 Per Cent. Dreary game show (S) (2492833)

Family Affairs. Annie decides to tell the family about Jack. Roy proposes to Met (S) (T) (2483185).

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